

Baz: Syrian role is vital

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's top foreign affairs adviser Osama Al Baz said Saturday that Syrian participation in the Middle East peace process was vital. "Let's not forget that part of Syria's territory (the Golan Heights) is occupied by Israel. Therefore its participation in the peace process is vital," he told reporters. Dr. Baz, who attended Saturday's first round of talks here between Mr. Mubarak and King Hussein, said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was expected to join Egypt and Jordan in talks on coordinating their approach to the Middle East problem. "We hope this coordination will further expand to include Syria and other Arab countries," Dr. Baz said, adding: "We want the Arabs to negotiate through a position of strength through a unified stand." Syria sharply criticised Jordan's decision last September to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt, broken off by most Arab states after Cairo signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

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PNC HQ transferred to Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) held a meeting Saturday and decided to transfer the headquarters of the Palestine National Council (PNC) and the Palestine National Fund (PNF) from Damascus to Amman, PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman said. The committee, which met under the chairmanship of Yasser Arafat, elected Mr. Jamal Al Sourani as its secretary general and decided to transfer the PLO General Secretariat from Damascus to Tunis, the spokesman said. The committee also took several decisions on key issues such as forming a special committee to initiate a comprehensive national dialogue among various PLO factions and delegations to tour Arab, European, African and Asian countries to brief the countries' leaders on the outcome of the 17th session of the PNC which concluded in Amman Thursday, Mr. Abdul Rahman added.

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Israeli collaborator shot dead

TEL AVIV (R) — Unidentified men shot dead the commander of a pro-Israeli militia in the South Lebanese village of Ghassaniye Friday. Israeli military sources said Saturday. They said the man had been warned to leave the militia, which cooperates with Israeli forces and the Israeli-supported South Lebanon Army (SLA). About 10 South Lebanese have been killed in recent months for cooperating with the Israelis and the SLA.

Soviets reaffirm support for Arabs

DAMASCUS (R) — The Soviet Union Saturday reiterated its support for Syria and the Arabs in their struggle for a just and lasting Middle East peace, the Syrian News Agency SANA said. The pledge by the Soviet leadership came in a reply to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's message of congratulations on the anniversary of the Russian Revolution. SANA said, it quoted the message as saying the Soviet Union "reaffirms its support for the Syrian and Arab peoples in their struggle against the forces of imperialism and aggression and for achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East."

Gandhi assassin names accomplices

NEW DELHI (AP) — A former security guard accused in the slaying of Indira Gandhi has implicated two other people in the assassination conspiracy, the United News of India reported Saturday. The names were not made public, but one of the two is a New Delhi police sub-inspector while the other is a close relative of Beant Singh, another security guard who was shot dead following the Oct. 31 assassination, the news agency said. The agency said Satwant Singh, 22, who along with Beant Singh has been accused of shooting Mrs. Gandhi, told authorities he wanted to wipe his slate clean.

Zia announces referendum

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq Saturday announced a referendum on his Islamisation policies and said he would remain president for the next five years if a majority approves them. The referendum would be held on Dec. 19, he said in a live television broadcast. Gen. Zia, who seized power in 1977, said elections he has promised by March for a national assembly would still be held but gave no date for them.

Pope to visit South America

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican Saturday announced Pope John Paul will visit Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago from Jan. 26 to Feb. 6. No details were released of the trip. The Pope's 25th foreign voyage since his election in 1978. Church sources have said the Pope is expected to be in Venezuela from Jan. 26 to 29, in Ecuador from Jan. 29 to Feb. 1, in Peru from Feb. 1 to 5, and to make a brief stop in Port-of-Spain, capital of Trinidad and Tobago, on the way back to Rome.

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Hussein, Noor begin three-day visit to Egypt

By Jordan Times staff writers with agency dispatches

CAIRO — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Saturday began a three-day state visit to Egypt and were greeted with one of the most tumultuous welcomes Cairo ever accorded to visiting dignitaries.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his wife, Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, cabinet members, senior parliamentarians and prominent Egyptian personalities welcomed the King and Queen when they arrived at Cairo airport to the boom of a 21-gun salute.

King Hussein and President Mubarak warmly embraced when the King landed at Cairo airport for his first visit in eight years and his second meeting with the Egyptian leader in less than two months.

Mr. Mubarak visited Amman Oct. 9-11, two weeks after Jordan resumed diplomatic ties with Egypt following a five-year break over its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

The King and Queen were taken to the Al Qubbeh Palace in Cairo by helicopter for a grand welcome ceremony when the Jordanian and Egyptian national anthems were played and the King, accompanied by President Mubarak, inspected a guard of honour. Two small girls presented

Queen Noor and Mrs. Mubarak with flowers to mark the occasion. Shortly after arrival, King Hussein held 90 minutes of private talks with President Mubarak before being joined by delegation for 30 more minutes of talks.

President Mubarak's special adviser Osama Al Baz told reporters that King Hussein and President Mubarak were "determined to intensify cooperation on a joint Arab strategy which will include Syria and other Arab states in efforts for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict."

"In Mubarak's and Hussein's talks, there was a joint concern for achieving movement and advancement in the interests of the Palestinians, which will of necessity be coordinated with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), it being the representative of the Palestinian people," Dr. Baz was quoted as saying by the Associated Press (AP).

Prime Minister Ali said King Hussein and President Mubarak reviewed the attitudes to the Middle East of Jordan, Egypt and the

PLO, and that the two heads of state directed that progress be speeded on implementing measures to coordinate trade and transport between Egypt and Jordan. Mr. Ali and his Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters that high on the King's talks with President Mubarak was the outcome of the Palestinian National Council's (PNC) eight-day session in Amman.

Before joining the King and President Mubarak for talks, the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee held a separate meeting co-chaired by Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat and Mr. Ali.

The Jordanian delegation attending the talks included Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Minister of Information Laila Sharaf, Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb, Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Hussein Hammami and Brig. Hani Shurudum, commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

The Egyptian delegation to the talks included Minister of Defence Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazaleh, Mr. Abdul Meguid, Minister of Planning Kamal Al Jazouiri, Information Minister Sawaf Al Sabir and Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh in addition to Dr. Baz.

The two sides exchanged views on current world affairs and concentrated on the Middle East question in general and the Palestine issues in particular in the light of

the outcome of the PNC session in Amman.

Reuters quoted a Jordanian official in the delegation, who did not want to be identified, said King Hussein views an international conference as the only way to solve the Palestinian problem. Such a conference should involve both super-powers, the United Nations and all concerned parties in the Middle East.

If Jordan got wholehearted Egyptian backing for the idea, King Hussein would try to visit other Arab states, or send envoys, to rally wider backing, the official was quoted as saying.

The Egyptians have said they agree that the idea of an international conference might be one avenue along which to pursue an Arab-Israeli settlement.

King Hussein and President Mubarak are scheduled to address the Egyptian parliament Sunday, when they are expected to shed light on prospects for renewed diplomatic efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Egyptian government sources, who requested anonymity, have said repeatedly they believe an agreement between the Jordanians, Palestinians and Egyptians on future peace moves could pave the way for a new peace initiative, which Cairo believes should be directed by the United States because of its influence with Israel.

(Continued on page 2)

Egypt says PNC bettered prospects for peace initiative

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian cabinet minister was quoted Saturday as saying he was "optimistic" about prospects for a new Middle East peace initiative following the meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

The Saudi newspaper Asharq Al Afsan quoted Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali as saying Egypt also welcomed prospects for renewed contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a move called for by PNC delegates.

"There were several positive results from the PNC meeting, including the realism which marked the discussions," Mr. Ghali was quoted as saying.

New Caledonian rebels hoist flag of independence

NOUMEA, New Caledonia (Agencies) — Nationalists seeking independence for New Caledonia set up an unofficial government Saturday in this French Pacific territory, lowering the French tricolour and raising the flag of "Kanaky."

About 100 militants established the "Provisional Government of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front" at a ceremony in La Conception, a Noumea suburb, and declared militant leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou its president. Kanaky is the name given by native Melanesians, or Kanaks, to New Caledonia.

Police meanwhile confirmed two people died and six were wounded Friday in violence between militant Kanaks, who seek independence, and Europeans in Ouegoua, in northern New Caledonia.

In Paris, the presidential Elysee Palace called an extraordinary council of ministers meeting Saturday afternoon to examine the tensions, which have escalated since Nov. 18 elections — boycotted by most Kanaks — for a territorial assembly. President Francois Mitterrand was to preside at the session.

French Interior Ministry special envoy Charles Barbeau returned early Saturday from a fact-finding mission in the overseas territory and was reporting to Prime Minister Laurent Fabius. "Kanaky is being born," said

China hails 'fighting spirit of Palestinians'

PEKING (R) — China's Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, Saturday hailed an eight-day session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) as "the embodiment of the united, fighting spirit of the four million Palestinian people."

It said the session of the parliament-in-exile, which re-elected Yasser Arafat as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), would have a significant impact on the Palestinian people's future struggle and the situation in the Middle East.

The PLO had trodden an arduous and tortuous path since its founding 20 years ago, but it had "always held high the banner of revolutionary struggle and deserves to be the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the paper said in a commentary.

The PNC session, which ended on Thursday in Amman, displayed anew the will and strength of the Palestinian people and proved that the Middle East problem could not be solved without PLO participation, the People's Daily stated.

In a reference to a Syrian boycott of the meeting, it said unity was the key to ultimate victory. It reiterated Chinese support for the PLO and called for an Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands.

China has consistently supported the PLO under the leadership of Mr. Arafat, who visited Peking earlier this year.

Peking denied a report this month by a British defence magazine that it had concluded a covert arms deal with Israel.

OIC pledges support for PLO leaders

BAHRAIN (R) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Saturday pledged its support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In a message congratulating Yasser Arafat on his reelection as PLO chairman, OIC Secretary-General Habib Chatti said the 45-member OIC also supported the goal of an independent Palestinian state in Israeli-occupied Arab territories under PLO leadership.

Mr. Arafat was reelected PLO chairman on Thursday at the end of an eight-day session of the Palestine National Council.

Mr. Chatti's message on behalf of the Jeddah-based OIC was carried by the Saudi Press Agency, monitored here.

Lebanon leaders discuss army deployment in south

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's president, prime minister and other leaders held meetings Saturday on plans to send the Lebanese army south to the boundary of Israel's occupation zone.

Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri, who also serves as minister of state for South Lebanon in Prime Minister Rasheed Karami's cabinet, said the security plan calling for the army deployment was scheduled to begin Thursday. It had originally been set for Sunday.

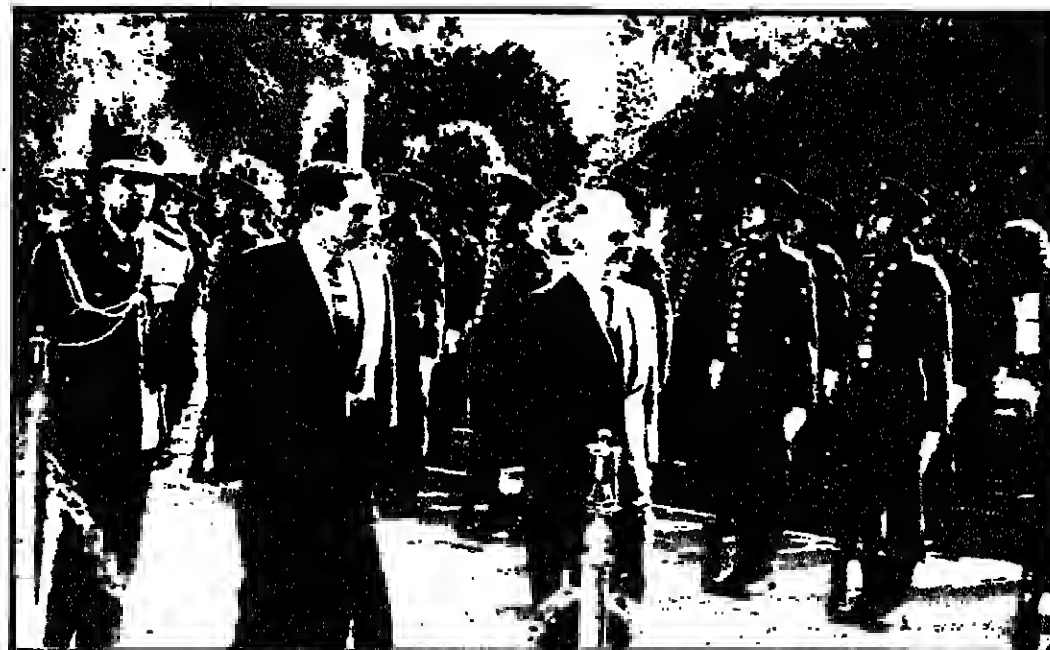
The plan, approved by the cabinet two weeks ago, calls for the army to take over positions from militias not only on the coastal road south, but also north from Beirut to Syrian-controlled northern Lebanon.

The government radio said that

Mr. Karami and President Amin Gemayel had discussed the plan at a meeting in the presidential palace in suburban Baabda.

It also said Marwan Hamadeh, an aide to Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, conferred with leaders in Mr. Berri's "Amal" militia and spoke by telephone to Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam. Syria's chief expert on Lebanon.

Mr. Khaddam was in Lebanon Nov. 24 to confer with the Lebanese cabinet on the coastal road deployment. One Lebanese source, who asked not to be identified, later said meeting with Syrian military officials would be held before moving the army south.



His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak inspects a guard of honour mounted in his honour in Cairo on the occasion of his three-day visit to Egypt which began Saturday (Al Ra'i photo)

DFLP calls for urgent talks to restore Palestinian unity

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Saturday called for urgent dialogue among rival Palestinian factions aimed at restoring the unity of their movement.

A DFLP statement issued here said such a dialogue would prepare for a new meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the movement's parliament-in-exile.

The DFLP and several other Palestinian groups, boycotted a recent PNC session in Amman, which reelected Yasser Arafat as leader of the Palestinian movement.

The most radical groups boycotted the session because they opposed Mr. Arafat's leadership. The DFLP stayed away because it said it was too early for a PNC session and that inter-Palestinian rivalries should be overcome first.

Saturday's DFLP statement said the Palestinian leadership elected in Amman this week did

not have the right to take decisions contradicting the resolutions of the previous PNC session in Algiers in February 1983.

This was because several major Palestinian groups were not at the Amman session, it added.

The DFLP statement did not indicate whether the dialogue it has proposed would be within the framework of talks that were going on between Fateh, the mainstream commando movement and Mr. Arafat's power base within the PLO, and a "democratic alliance", which grouped the DFLP, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Palestinian Communist Party. The DFLP and the PFLP sharply differed over what stand the alliance should adopt towards the PNC, while four of the five PLF representatives in the PNC attended the council sessions in Amman and the front holds a seat in the PLO Executive Committee.

Prior to the PNC was scheduled

to begin last Thursday, the DFLP and the PFLP announced that a joint command the two groups had was no longer effective, implying that the "democratic alliance" might have been disbanded.

The PNC left three seats vacant in the 14-member Executive Committee for factions which did not attend the council sessions in Amman. It is believed that the three seats are intended for the DFLP, the PFLP and the pro-Syrian Salqa. While the DFLP and PFLP were grouped in the "democratic alliance", Salqa joined other Syrian-backed groups in a "national alliance."

By leaving the three seats vacant in the committee, Fateh has indicated that it was ready for dialogue with other factions.

Meanwhile in Amman the newly-elected Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) held its first meeting here Friday night and reviewed political and organisational work set by the PNC.



CHASE
See page 5.

CONDOLENCES

The management and staff of the Jordan Times express their deep grief at the passing away of
ATEF SALIM HAWATMEH
and share the sorrow of the Hawatmeh family on this sad occasion.
Condolences are accepted at
IMARAT HAWATMEH,
EMIR NAYEF ST.,
ZARQA.

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"In the name of God the Merciful and the Compassionate"

Gratitude and Appreciation

Teachers of the Imam Al Bukhari Second Preparatory School, Amman, Jabal Al Nasr, express deep gratitude to Dr. R. Campbell Conolly of Harley Str.-149 - London, who is one of the most famous brain surgeons in the world for successfully carrying out a complicated surgical operation, that seemed almost impossible, on the school's headmaster Hussein Ahmad Al Daoud at a London Hospital. The teachers also express their gratitude and appreciation to the following nurses who looked after the headmaster while he was in the hospital: Sisters Canady, Leond, K. Farrel, A. Cucey.

China urges Iran, Iraq to respond to peace call

PEKING (R) — China Saturday welcomed a move by six Arab Gulf states to set up a joint defence force with a unified command, and urged Iran and Iraq to respond to a call to end their four-year-old war.

"We are glad to see that the six Gulf countries are now becoming an important force of stability in the region through their cooperation and coordination in the military field," the official Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, said in a commentary. The paper urged Tehran and Baghdad to respond to a call by the six to end their drawn-out conflict.

The remarks follow a visit to Tehran this week by Chinese Foreign Minister Qiao Qunzhang and a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council, composed of Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The council, at a meeting in Kuwait, announced the creation of a joint force to help defend each other against outside attack.

The People's Daily regarded the move as an important step to improve Arab unity. It said the

work of the council "constitutes an initiative by the six Gulf countries to unify and reduce tension in the region. It will contribute to peace and stability in the Gulf region and the Middle East."

It said with Israel continuing to occupy southern Lebanon and pushing "an aggressive and expansionist policy," it was the top priority for the Arab countries to unite and bury their differences.

But it blamed rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union as "the root cause of instability in the Gulf region."

China attempts to maintain good relations with both Iran and Iraq, but has consistently denied foreign press reports that it has supplied arms to both sides during the present conflict.

Peking gave few details of Mr. Wu's trip to Tehran, but said it had helped to promote understanding and friendly relations.

Meanwhile, Iraqis woke Saturday to the sound of mosque loudspeakers and church bells marking "martyrs' day" to commemorate victims of the 50-month war with Iran.

Traffic stopped all over the country for five minutes at eight a.m. and special meetings were held in schools, farms and factories.

The government has not revealed how many Iraqis have died since it invaded Iran in September 1980, but the casualties on both sides are estimated to have run into tens of thousands.

Iraq chose Dec. 1 for its ceremonies because it says that three years ago Saturday, Iraq killed 1,500 prisoners of war in the southern sector of the war front.

The government newspaper Al-Jumhuriya published what it said was an interview with an Iraqi soldier who escaped the scene after watching comrades being shot, stripped, crushed with tanks and buried.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has not mentioned the incident, but has accused Iran of summarily executing captives.

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King, Queen begin visit to Egypt

(Continued from page 1)

The King visits the memorial to Egypt's Unknown Soldier Sunday, the place where extremists in 1981 shot President Anwar Sadat dead. Mr. Sadat is buried a few metres away.

Queen Noor, accompanied by Mrs. Mubarak, visited the pyramids Saturday.

The Queen was shown the Great Pyramid of Cheops and the remains of a Pharaonic boat by Egypt's minister of culture, Mohamed Abdul Hamid Radwan.

The King and Queen and the Jordanian delegation were guests of honour at a dinner hosted by President and Mrs. Mubarak Saturday night.

In a speech at the dinner, Mr. Mubarak praised Jordan's policies and said:

"You are here among friends, relatives and neighbours. Everyone is expressing warm feelings of welcome to you and we hope that we will be able to make your visit to Egypt a success."

"I cannot forget our delight at visiting Jordan and the hospitality accorded to me and my delegation. It was a brief visit, but it was useful and important, especially because it came after you decided to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt."

"This constituted a turning point in Arab affairs, and reflected a wise, responsible and courageous action."

"The talks we held today proved we are on the right course together and our common goals will be fulfilled for the service of the whole Arab Nation. Egypt cannot forget your long struggle for serving the Arab Nation and it is hoped that Egyptian-Jordanian

cooperation will help us both to continue this service."

In reply to Mr. Mubarak's speech, the King said:

"Jordan, which harbours to Arab Egypt and its people every love, holds in high esteem Egypt's national stands which emanate from its belonging to the Arab Nation and its belief in the unity of the Arab destiny."

"We wish to extend to you and the government and people of Egypt our thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome you accorded to me, Queen Noor and the Jordanian delegation accompanying us."

"Egypt has played a distinguished role over the ages and contributed to enriching the world civilisation as it has always been a resort for the Arab and Muslim scholars and intellectuals and a source of culture, knowledge, creativity and heritage."

"Egypt has opened its universities and institutions to all education seekers and put its treasures of knowledge at their disposal."

"Egypt, in view of its distinguished geographical location, has been a linking chain between Asia and Africa and a gate for Islamic conquest of the African Continent."

"Egypt has always had a positive role at the Islamic, African and Arab levels which won it an international weight and was put into good use for the service of these people."

"The Arab Nation to which we belong has the right to be served and we should mobilise all potentials and resources for that goal. We must unify the Arab ranks to enable the nation to regain its

strength to protect its interests and future generations," Jordan's decision to resume relations with Egypt was supported by responsible Arabs who are keen on maintaining a strong and united Arab Nation because the strength of the nation depends on its solidarity and cohesion.

"Jordan supports Egypt's national endeavours and services for the Palestinian, the Lebanese and Iraqi people and your efforts to unify Arab ranks. All responsible people should support Egypt's endeavours and its efforts."

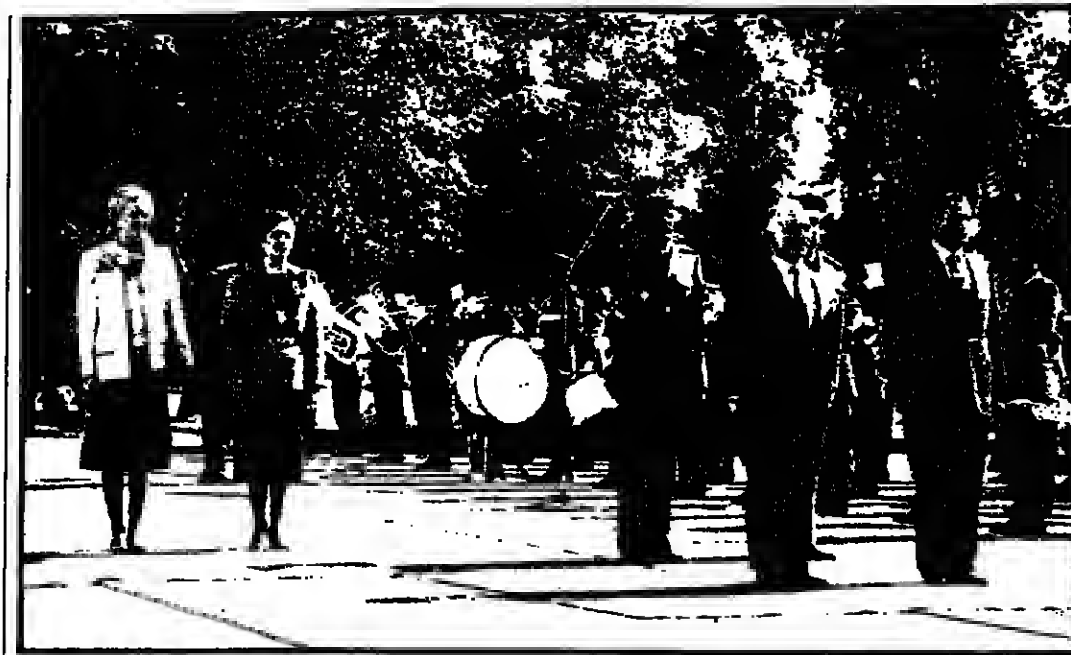
"We look forward to see Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation achieving fruitful results to serve the future generations."

Upon departure from Amman King Hussein and Queen Noor were seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al-Lawzi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed bin Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid bin Shaker, cabinet members, senior officials and high-ranking army officers.

Before the King's departure, Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent and a Royal Decree was issued appointing Justice Minister Ahmad Tarawneh as acting prime minister and minister of defence.

Princess Anne arrives in Dubai

ABU DHABI (R) — Princess Anne, daughter of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, arrived in Dubai Friday night on a four-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).



WELCOMING CEREMONY: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor and Egyptian President and Mrs. Hosni Mubarak at a

welcoming ceremony in Cairo to mark beginning of a three-day state visit to Egypt by the King and Queen Saturday (Al Ra'i photo)

Hout doubts continuation of armed struggle from outside occupied lands

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said here Friday he doubted PLO commanders will be able to continue their armed struggle by infiltrating into Israeli occupied territories from neighbouring Arab countries.

Sbafiq Al Hout, who heads the PLO office in Beirut, said the PLO has always called on Arab countries "surrounding our occupied territories to give us a chance to practice armed struggle across those borders."

"I don't think that it is possible again," he said, referring to the anticipated Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

"To be honest and frank I don't think now we have much of a chance to infiltrate from those territories. We have to find the miracle of trying to get the armed struggle escalated within the occupied territories," he said.

"When we speak of armed struggle we mean more than ever before escalation within the occupied territories," Mr. Hout said.

He said the PLO is concerned that Palestinian refugees could be endangered if there is an Israeli partial withdrawal from South Lebanon before arrangements are finalised for the protection of refugee camps in the area.

"There is a lot of bitterness in Lebanon and a lot of people who

could be pushed or provoked to make sectarian troubles that could end with tragic massacres" such as that of Palestinians in the Shatila and Sabra camps in Beirut in 1982, he said.

He specifically mentioned "fanatic Falangists" and members of the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army." Mr. Hout is here for the U.N. General Assembly's annual debate on Palestine, scheduled to start next Thursday.

He said the PLO which has observer status at the United Nations, is working for passage of a resolution "to ensure and to guarantee the security of the Palestinian refugees."

Italy, Greece agree Europe should take new interest in Middle East

ROME (R) — Italy and Greece have agreed that it was time for the European Community (EC) to take another look at the Middle East problem, Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said.

"We agree on the need to put the problems of the Middle East crisis back on the European Community's political table," Mr. Craxi told a news conference after talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

Mr. Craxi said he and Mr. Papandreu had compared notes on their respective travels this month to Arab countries. Mr. Papandreu has been to Syria and Jordan and Mr. Craxi to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Algeria.

Everywhere, Arab leaders had

said that Europe should prepare an initiative that could lead to Middle East peace negotiations, Mr. Craxi said.

Four years ago, the European Community declared that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should be associated with peace moves. However, faced with U.S. and Israeli rejection, the much-discussed European initiative failed to take off.

Mr. Craxi said he and Mr. Papandreu discussed other problems facing community leaders at their Dublin summit next week and hoped that obstacles blocking talks on the entry of Spain and Portugal into the community could be sorted out.

"Our governments have wor-

ked and continue to work in this sense," he said.

One of the main problems is the flood of wine and other Mediterranean products that Spanish and Portuguese entry will relay.

Mr. Papandreu repeated his country's criticism of NATO for failing to deal with what he said was the threat Greece faced from Turkey.

He said Greece was the only NATO country threatened not by the Communist Bloc but by another Islamic country.

"The alliance doesn't find the strength to end this threat, because it doesn't want to upset Turkey, which it considers a very important military factor," he told the news conference.

Arab physicians end talks in Damascus

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Physicians Federation General Secretariat has ended a meeting in Damascus with a call on Arab states to try to achieve pan-Arab solidarity and stand up to the foreign threats and aggression on the Arab nation, and end the Iran-

Iraq war.

According to the head of Jordan's delegation to the meeting the participants also discussed the health conditions in the occupied Arab territories and set up a committee to organise assistance

to Arab doctors under Israeli rule.

Dr. Hassan Khreis who is also president of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) said that the meeting decided to hold the coming session in Algiers in November 1985.

Kuwaiti jet crashes prior to Gulf summit

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti Air force fighter plane crashed near Kuwait International Airport last Tuesday shortly before Gulf Arab heads of state flew in for summit talks, diplomats said Saturday.

Defence Ministry spokesmen were not immediately available for comment on the crash of the French-made Mirage aircraft. The pilots said the plane crashed in a routine training run.

The crash occurred on the morning that the leaders of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates arrived for a three-day summit conference hosted by Kuwait.

Visibility was poor at the time because of cloudy weather, though this had improved by the time the Gulf leaders flew in.

The fighter plane, believed to be on patrol, apparently ran out of fuel, the diplomats told Reuters.

Kuwait lost a Mirage fighter last September when it crashed in a routine training run.

The Gulf state is due to take delivery this month of a further 12 F-16 Mirages, which will arrive in stages over the next year.

Syrian envoy calls for reconsidering methods of joint Arab economic work

AMMAN (Petra) — Syrian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Yassin Salim called for reconsidering methods and means of joint Arab economic work with the aim of strengthening and developing it and making it more active in achieving the wider steps in this field.

In his speech before the Council of Arab Economic Unity's (CAEU) 42nd session, which started here Saturday at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, Dr. Yassin, who chaired the session, expressed the hope that meetings of the current session will come up "with fruitful and positive results contributing positively to the joint Arab economic work."

The recession, inflation and the commercial and financial policies prevailing in the world strengthen the need for an active Arab economic work, capable of standing in the face of the challenges posed by such circumstances.

Concluding his speech Dr. Yassin expressed thanks and appreciation to Jordan for hosting the current CAEU session.

Also speaking during Saturday's meeting was the CAEU Secretary General Mahdi Al-Obaidi who said that the current session aims at improving the Arab economic work, upgrading performance and strengthening the tendency to implement the ultimate goals of the CAEU agreement.

Mr. Obaidi pointed out to the international economic situation, the factors governing them and their reflections on the economies of the developing countries.

Mr. Obaidi also spoke about the "deteriorating" economic situation prevailing in the occupied Arab territories.

"The Israeli authorities are still seizing Arab waters, damaging the agricultural sector and are constructing Israeli settlements, paying no attention to the international resolutions," Mr. Obaidi said.

Mr. Obaidi concluded his speech by a call to Arab countries to give Arab economic integration the due attention, in order to enable it to confront challenges and crises facing Arab World.

Turkish soldier killed in clashes with gunmen

ANKARA (Agencies) — A Turkish soldier has been killed in a search operation in the south-east of the country, a military statement said in apparent reference to a hunt for Kurdish guerrillas.

It said private Nizamettin Yaman died on Wednesday night "in a clash during a search for guerrillas" at Erzurum, a town where Kurdish guerrillas have struck in the past, but it gave no details.

Autonomy-seeking Kurdish

guerrillas have killed more than 20 members of the armed forces in the last four months. A dozen guerrillas have been killed and hundreds of suspects rounded up by security forces.

Turkish military units have been on a manhunt in south east Turkey since separatist Kurdish groups started hit-and-run attacks against military units and border villages on Aug. 15.

U.N. chief says Cyprus talks to resume in a week

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said he expected resumed talks on the Cyprus problem to resume "perhaps in a week's time."

He was replying to reporters' questions after briefing Security

Council members privately on the progress of the talks.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said it was too early to talk about prospects for a three-way meeting between him and the two Cypriot leaders, who have not conferred directly since 1979.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	23:00	News Summary
MAIN CHANNEL	23:05	Evening Show
17:00	23:10	News Headlines
17:15	23:15	Koran
17:30	23:20	Cartoons
17:45	23:25	Children's Programme
18:00	23:30	Around the World in 90 days
18:15	23:35	Children's Programme
18:30	23:40	Children's Programme
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NEWS IN BRIEF

French parliamentary team due Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the French-Jordanian parliamentary society is due here on Friday for a week-long visit to Jordan. The delegation members will meet a number of Jordanian officials for talks on Arab-French relations, other subjects of mutual concern and parliamentary affairs.

Decrees approve World Bank loans

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday ratifying an agreement with the World Bank for granting Jordan a loan to help finance the sixth educational project. Another decree was issued endorsing a law that covers a loan agreement with the World Bank to finance a multi purpose transport project.

Abdul Jaber to attend ministers' meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jaber will leave Amman Sunday for Tunis to take part in the Arab social and labour ministers council meeting due to open on Wednesday. Dr. Abdul Jaber will be accompanied by his ministry's director of social defence department, Farouk Nagehawi.

Ministry announces celebration change

AMMAN (Petra) — A slight change has occurred on the celebration of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday scheduled for Wednesday, a spokesman for the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs said Saturday. The celebration, the source said, will take place under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, at the Palace of Culture on Wednesday Dec. 4 at 3:00 p.m. in lieu of 10 a.m. as was earlier announced.

Immunisation centres stay open longer

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Kamel Al Ajlouni Saturday instructed all health department directors to arrange to keep the immunisation centres open daily from 8:00 to 4:30 p.m. throughout the year. This measure comes in implementation of the Ministry of Health's policy to provide immunisation to all citizens, particularly to those whose nature of work prevents them from taking their children to the immunisation centres.

Jordan to join Baghdad women's talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a regional meeting on women which will be held in Baghdad on Monday Dec. 3, to prepare for the Nairobi conference on women to mark the occasion of the United Nations International Decade of Women. Representing Jordan at the Baghdad meeting will be Iman Abu Al Rous from the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and Ideh Al Mutlaq, chairman of the women's federation in Irbid.

No raise in JEPSCO tariff, Jundi says

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPSCO) Managing Director Mazhar Al Jundi Saturday said that JEPSCO has no intention to raise the tariff for electricity consumption, adding that defining and determining rates for electricity consumption falls under the prerogative of the Prime Ministry. Mr. Jundi also said that no amendment to the collection and distribution system has taken place, adding that the only change taking place is related to the reading of electricity metres, as it now takes place once every three months.

GUVS appeals for in-kind, financial assistance to help the needy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan, Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, Saturday issued an appeal to merchants to donate in-kind and financial assistance to needy families. Dr. Khatib launched a campaign early last month to collect clothes, foodstuffs, toys, furniture and other items for use by needy families. Latest GUVS figures indicate that a total of JD 200,000 worth of assistance has been collected by teams touring various towns for this humanitarian cause.

CAA director returns from Holland

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Khaled Mohammad Ali returned to Amman at the end of an official four-day visit to Holland. He said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that during the visit he discussed renewing an air transport agreement between Jordan and Holland. During the visit, Mr. Ali signed a memorandum of understanding which ensures that the national airlines of both countries will maintain their weekly flights to both countries. Under the memo the two sides also undertake to increase their bilateral cooperation and coordination in technical and commercial fields.

Specialised statistics course opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-week training course on statistics in construction opened at the Department of Statistics Saturday. In a speech to the participants at the opening session Mr. Jawad Salah, the department's acting director, outlined the importance of training of personnel on statistics required in the construction business.



University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali (left) and Water Authority of Jordan President Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani (second from left) Saturday sign an administrative agreement (Petra photo)

University, WAJ sign administration agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan and the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Saturday signed an agreement whereby the University of Jordan's Consulting, Technical Services and Studies Centre will study and organise the administrative aspects of the WAJ. The ten-month agreement provides for establishing a preliminary organisational plan for the WAJ and preparing job descriptions, in addition to preparation of administrative planning for the authority.

Instructors attend training course on occupational safety measures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Saturday opened a three-day training course on occupational hazards and safety for 15 engineers employed at vocational centres. Ministry of Labour Under Secretary Saleh Khasawneh made a speech at the opening session outlining the objectives of the course which he said are designed to help orient the instructors on measures which can help reduce the number of accidents in factories and workshops. The participants will bear lectures on occupational safety measures, first aid and safety equipment.

Sarvath inaugurates bazaar to raise funds for liver patients

By Rana Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Highness Princess Sarvath Saturday inaugurated a grand bazaar organised by "The Society for the Friends of Liver Patients" aimed at raising funds for the benefit of people suffering from liver diseases. The bazaar, held at the Amra Hotel, contains numerous valuable items including an exhibition of paintings displayed for sale by a number of artists. The most prominent part at the bazaar were the artistic productions by Bassem Sheikh Jawad, Bassem Nasr and Islamic calligrapher Jamal Badran. Mr. Jawad displayed 46 paintings that he described as "typical Jordanian landscapes and folklore." He told the Jordan Times, "I am trying to highlight the modern

Jordanian-Palestinian initiative Information minister reviews

PNC decisions positive for just solution, Sharaf says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Information Minister Laila Sharaf has described the Palestine National Council's (PNC) decisions on cementing Jordanian-Palestinian relations as a positive step on the road to finding a just solution to the Palestine question and for formulating a concept on future Jordanian-Palestinian moves.

In a statement to the Qatari News Agency (QNA), Mrs. Sharaf said that King Hussein's address to the opening session of the PNC was not a new Jordanian initiative, but a Jordanian perception of the nature of the future Jordanian-Palestinian move.

Speaking about the reference by King Hussein to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, Mrs. Sharaf said the reference was made to the resolution on the grounds that it is the only decision acceptable to all countries, because it provides for the inadmissibility of acquisition of land by force and for a total Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since 1967. "The reference to U.N. Resolution 242 does not offend the Palestine Liberation Organisation

such a move will receive the full support of other Arab countries and that it will be discussed during an Arab summit or through bilateral contacts if an Arab summit was not possible.

Mrs. Sharaf stressed that Jordan calls for holding a summit when there are Arab differences which cannot be solved except through a summit conference. "In supporting Iraq, Jordan does not follow the polarisation policy because it is closely related to Iraq, which is a brother Arab country," Mrs. Sharaf said.

Speaking about U.S.-Jordanian relations, Mrs. Sharaf said they are tepid and expressed the hope that the new administration must have learnt from the severe past experiences. However, Mrs. Sharaf said that Jordan welcomes any change in the U.S. stand towards the Palestine question, and added that Americans has an opportunity to achieve this.

Regarding Jordanian-Egyptian relations, Mrs. Sharaf said Jordan has been endeavouring since the Fez Summit in 1982 to return Egypt to the Arab fold in view of the new Egyptian policy President Mubarak is adopting.

Artist Jamal Badran, known for his calligraphy and Islamic art productions, mainly applied arts, exhibited plaster work, leather, book binding, casting and decorated Hebron glass. Free-band brushwork, lamp shades and stands and mosaics were also there.

All his items were decorated and painted in Islamic calligraphy with blue, red and gold as the three main colours. Fascinating geometrical designs painted with great attention to detail and precision are a feature of his style. Mr. Badran said his works aim at "reviving the Islamic art that has been forsaken by people." He uses olive wood, jupson, copper, mosaic style painting and glass work on which his bands left traces of magnificent Umayyad and Fatimite eras. He also used Kufi calligraphy on Hebron glass, vases that gave them a genuine antique look.

Mrs. Laila Atallah displayed her own artistic collection of silk hand-painted cushions, hand-painted mirrors and some flowery paintings. She used vivid and cheerful light colours and designs. Artists Ufemia Rizk and Hind Nasser each donated a painting to the benefit of the Friends of Liver Patients Society.

Another important display was by the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF). The organisation displayed cards, agendas, puzzles and UNICEF plates. Sales profits will be utilised to promote education and social programmes for children all around the world.

Items from Pakistan, India, the Philippines, Korea and the United Arab Emirates were also displayed at the bazaar. The items included wood work, flower arrangements and lamp shades made of mother of pearl, vases, topaz stone, silk, hand-made carpets, furniture, antiques, cushions, bronze and ceramic items.

Alia moves into international services through 'Gateway'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The latest addition to the string of landmark star hotels in Jordan is the 'Gateway', expected to go into operation in the first quarter of 1985. Just under five minutes drive from Queen Alia International Airport, the Gateway is the physical realisation of one of the cherished goals of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, which hopes the hotel will be the first of a number of such facilities it plans to establish on an international basis.

The Gateway is primarily aimed at transit passengers of Alia as well as those of other carriers operating through Amman which will avail of the Hotel's services.

Mr. Adnan Habboub, an expert on the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) department of tourism development, who is one of a three-member executive committee heading the Alia Hospitality Services (AHS).

The 308-room hotel has been built "in conformity with all facilities and services as those of a five-star hotel, and its guests will find no difference."

Habboub told the Jordan Times, "The Gateway has been built, furnished and equipped with equal footing with any other hotel of international standards."

The hotel offers sheltered parking space for 46 cars and its open parking lot can accommodate about 120 cars.

The Gateway, despite its design, furnishing and equipment of the standards of a five-star hotel, has been allotted four-star rating according to Jordanian criteria and the rates for its rooms and other facilities and services will be strictly in line with regulations laid down by the Jordanian government, Mr. Habboub said.



The Gateway Hotel, located near the Queen Alia International Airport

and lacked such facilities anywhere nearby.

The Gateway's menu will include Far Eastern, Middle Eastern as well as European food specialties, and "I am confident that the hotel will also meet the culinary requirements of almost anyone from any part of the globe," Mr. Habboub said.

The Gateway will also offer floor shows and night entertainments on a daily basis apart from special functions to mark ceremonial occasions, Mr. Habboub said.

The hotel offers sheltered parking space for 46 cars and its open parking lot can accommodate about 120 cars.

The Gateway, despite its design, furnishing and equipment of the standards of a five-star hotel, has been allotted four-star rating according to Jordanian criteria and the rates for its rooms and other facilities and services will be strictly in line with regulations laid down by the Jordanian government, Mr. Habboub said.

The Gateway, built at a cost of JD 7.5 million, has a total built-in area of 20,000 square metres on a plot of 30,000 square metres and greenery of about 7,500 square metres dotted with semi-grown trees which add a distinction to the otherwise bare landscape surrounding the hotel. The hotel's walls are sound-proof and roar of the jet engines landing and taking off nearby will not be of any disturbance to the hotel's guests.

In 1982 and 1983, Alia had to accommodate transit passengers representing about "60,000 bed-nights," said Mr. Habboub. The Gateway will cover this requirement, and Mr. Habboub said the AHS expects other carriers to complement the number. "Of course, we do not expect Alia passengers alone to make up for the

operational cost of the Gateway," he said. "The are about 10 other international airlines whose operations are directly under Alia supervision and we also hope that other airlines will choose to use the Gateway."

The AHS, an Alia subsidiary set up in 1983 with the entrusted task of carrying out the airline's ambitious programme of setting up an international chain of hotels, is in the process of recruiting qualified personnel for the hotel," Mr. Habboub said.

The ILO expert added that he was impressed with the "talent and experience of Jordanian candidates applying for the various jobs at the hotel."

"We expect that the entire staff of about 250 at the Gateway will be Jordanian," he said. "Jordan has some of the best expertise in the field of hotel management and in every field related to the successful running of a hotel of international standards which has to cater to a wide variety of tastes and likes."

Mr. Habboub, who helped set up the Hotel Training College and the Amman Hotel as part of the college, has been involved in the Gateway project since early 1984 when the ILO assigned him as adviser to the AHS, whose operations were limited to the restaurants at the new airport terminals. He expressed conviction that the Gateway will prove to be a "success and will add to the image and prestige of Alia as a major airline operating from the Middle East."

The Gateway was built by the French firm Sodetec under a turnkey contract "in record time," says Ibrahim Arel, acting vice-president of Arab Air Services, another Alia subsidiary which was involved in the project as consultants.

Normally a 300-room hotel of international standards will take as much as 36 to 42 months and in the case of the Gateway, the time was brought down to 30 months," Mr. Arel said. Also, the building of the hotel was an engineering achievement, he said, "in that it applied a rare combination of three different construction techniques." He cited the three techniques as precast bathroom walls with provisions for electricity and plumbing connections, precast floor and facet elements and in-site concrete filling.

"It is also worth noting that all precast elements were supplied by local firms which used most-up-to-date technology to fabricate them," Mr. Arel said.

The 30,000-square-metre plot with provisions to build a hotel was part of the design of Queen Alia International Airport and therefore the JD 7.5 million cost of the hotel does not include that of the land, Mr. Arel said. "The only difference is that there was a last-minute switch from the original location which resulted in a three-to-four month delay in the overall construction," he added.

The hotel complex consists of two wings, the guest rooms wing and the hotel services area where the restaurants, bars and the swimming pool are located. The construction of the two wings were carried out simultaneously without having any engineering links or dependency on each other at any stage, Mr. Arel said. The simultaneous construction work has also helped reduce the total building time involved, he added.

A major portion of the total cost of the hotel was in the form of a loan by the French government organisation, COFACE, at an interest rate of 7.5 per cent.

The building of the Gateway

was complete by Sept. 15, 1984 and the final "commissioning and handing-over process is going on at present," Mr. Arel said. He expects that the entire building and facilities will be successfully commissioned by Dec. 15. However, operational reasons have prompted the AHS to delay the inauguration of the hotel by two to three months after the commissioning.

In the meantime, top executives and representatives of all major airlines have been taken on an "orientation tour" of the hotel and Mr. Habboub was very optimistic that "most airlines will opt to avail of the services and facilities offered by the Gateway."

CONDOLENCES

The staff and their families of Karrain Services and Consultants share the grief of the Hawatmeh family on the most tragic death of

Atef Salim Hawatmeh

and pray to God that his soul may rest in peace

Splash

Programme Schedule

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الحياتية في شارع الأمير محمد الثاني ٦٦٣١٣٦

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Editor: JUMA A. HAMMAD
Deputy Editor: KATA KAT
Assistant Editor: MOHAMMAD AMAD
Advertising Manager: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH
Advertising Assistant: MAHMOUD AL-KAYED
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The hardest work

THE VISIT of His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor to Egypt this week comes as a timely symbol of the growing feeling among many Arabs that the Arab boycott of Egypt has run its course, and a new phase of normal relations between Egypt and the rest of the Arabs needs to be launched.

There are many things for the Jordanian and Egyptian leaders to discuss in the regional sphere, and it is natural for many observers to anticipate the formulation of a new peace offensive. Many of the factors that had caused Middle Eastern diplomacy to be frozen have been removed from the stage. The Americans and Israelis have had their elections. The Palestinians have convened their national council. There is a general desire to explore new possibilities of peace-making. What can Jordan and Egypt do to help this process along?

Probably the single greatest contribution they could make would be to work together to convene an Arab summit conference. It is obvious beyond a doubt that talk of fresh peace offensives and Arab-Israeli negotiations is cruel and illusory in the present state of Arab disarray. Precisely because there are so many inter-Arab points of disagreement, it is naive to expect the Arabs to agree on the basis of peace-making with Israel. There needs to be a frank discussion of inter-Arab problems at the highest level, to reaffirm the Arab will for a just and realistic peace with Israel on the basis of the 1982 Fez summit resolutions. Jordan and Egypt have much to contribute to peace-making in the area, but we both know that the measure of success in Middle Eastern diplomacy relates directly to the amount of support that one can show for one's proposals. It is imperative that the Arabs meet in a summit as soon as possible to discuss the status of Egypt and to reinvigorate whatever chances for peace may lurk in the region. Jordan and Egypt both know that trying to convene a summit will be hard work, without any guarantee of results. That is all the more reason to work towards this pressing goal.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Joint action with Egypt

KING HUSSEIN'S visit to Cairo is another step forward towards building up Arab ranks and preparing them for confronting the challenges. The visit and talks between the two leaders of Jordan and Egypt mean adding new impetus for the endeavours to find a solution to the Palestine problem and re-establishing the rights of the Palestinian people.

The two leaders will of course discuss the outcome of the Palestine National Council's meetings in Amman and how this outcome can help them lead the way to bring about a peaceful settlement. King Hussein's visit to Cairo is a further proof of the Arabs' desire to regain Egypt to the Arab ranks and enlisting its help in their joint action.

President Mubarak's visit to Jordan earlier was the first step towards this end and offered a good chance for the two leaders to discuss ways to expanding cooperation between their countries in all fields. The return visit is now bound to add further momentum to the drive to achieve Arab solidarity and move forward towards fulfilling Arab goals. The two leaders will have more chance to discuss in depth Arab affairs, bilateral cooperation and above all the most effective way to tackle the Middle East issue in the light of the current world situation.

The King's visit is very important not because it is coming after a long period of Egypt's absence from the Arab scene but because it represents another step towards ending the prevailing weak Arab stand and breaking the deadlock in the efforts for establishing peace.

Al Dustour: Cementing cooperation

KING HUSSEIN'S coming visit to Egypt and his talks with President Mubarak form together an important political event in the Middle East. But they also open up new horizons for cooperation between the two countries working towards restoring Arab rights in Palestine.

The two countries, Egypt and Jordan form a link between the western and eastern parts of the sprawling Arab World in Africa and Asia and their coming together reflects their leaders' desire to maintain unity among the countries of the Arab World and their intention to launch joint action for serving Arab goals and aspirations. The two leaders have a long experience in Arab affairs and both are determined to offer their services and sacrifice for the common cause. Therefore, they restored diplomatic ties between their countries and launched steps towards cooperation in economic fields as a first stage leading towards more important cooperation in other areas.

The King's visit will no doubt open the chance for more talks about Arab affairs and the Middle East, and also about bolstering bilateral cooperation in different fields. It is in fact a step that ought to be copied by other Arab countries which are really keen on preserving Arab interests and Arab goals.

Sawt Al Shaab: Shouldering responsibility

PARLIAMENT DEPUTIES from the occupied West Bank called at King Hussein on Thursday to express their appreciation and gratitude to Jordan for hosting the Palestine National Council meeting in Amman. These deputies underlined in their speeches before the King the very strong ties between the Jordanians and Palestinians who live as one family and face the same destiny and the same challenges represented in the Israeli occupation and Israel's practices in the occupied lands.

They spoke about the demographic, geographic and historic links between the two peoples on the East and West Banks working under the leadership of the King for building up a united country. They reaffirmed that the Israeli occupation and all that it entails of arbitrary measures and expropriation of land, did not affect the strong unity between the two peoples. At the same time Jordan under King Hussein has never shirked its responsibility or ignored its commitment towards the Palestinians and their cause.

It is true that the Rabat summit conference stated that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, but in reality Jordan along with the PLO have been shouldering the task, and both sides have been urged by another Rabat summit to pursue their march to reach a formula on future plans aimed at liberating the land and people. The long joint struggle and co-existence between the Jordanians and Palestinians have fused them into one people with the same objectives and aspirations.

Is fuel conservation justified in Jordan?

By Fahed Fanek

NEWSPAPER COMMENTATORS are busy debating the myth and reality in the levels of Jordanian consumption of energy.

On Sept. 30, the Jordan Times printed an article I wrote about fuel consumption in Jordan, compared to the international standards. Using figures and statistics I demonstrated the fact that, on average, the Jordanian citizen consumes five barrels of oil for each \$1000 of annual gross domestic product in 1981 dollars, against 1.74 barrels world-wide or 3.98 barrels in the United States of America. I also highlighted the fact that the average per capita consumption of fuel in Jordan during

1983 was around nine barrels against the world-wide average consumption of 4.4 barrels only.

I clearly noted in my article that the Jordanian figures were my own calculation, based on available information, while the international figures were quoted from "State of the World-1984", a World-watch Institute report on progress towards a sustained society. My express purpose was to call for the application of certain policies and methods to conserve fuel consumption.

However, our friend Mr. Mousa Keilani hastily read my figures and wrote another article in Al Shaab newspaper citing international reports dis-

closing that the Jordanian citizen consumes more oil than his American counterpart, an exaggeration which — despite the good intention — is not convincing, because we, in Jordan, do not have the extensive heavy industries, land, air and sea transport activity and the cooling and heating systems to the extent available to the American people, who have the high income that allows all that fuel burn.

Commentators Jamil Barakat in Al Shaab newspaper and Mohammad Saleh Jaber in Al Rai newspaper rightly objected to Mr. Keilani's exaggeration, which weakened my points in showing that our energy consumption is too high

and must be curbed, although he meant to support this thesis!

It is a fact that Jordanian per capita consumption of energy in 1981 was no more than 9.4 per cent of the American per capita consumption, but it is also a fact that the Jordanian per capita gross domestic product is less than eight per cent of the American per capita income. Therefore, our per capita consumption (relative to the size of our economy and production) is more than the American consumption, but it is much less in absolute figures if we do not relate it to the income, economic activity or size of domestic product.

We have sufficient reasons to justify a vigorous scheme of

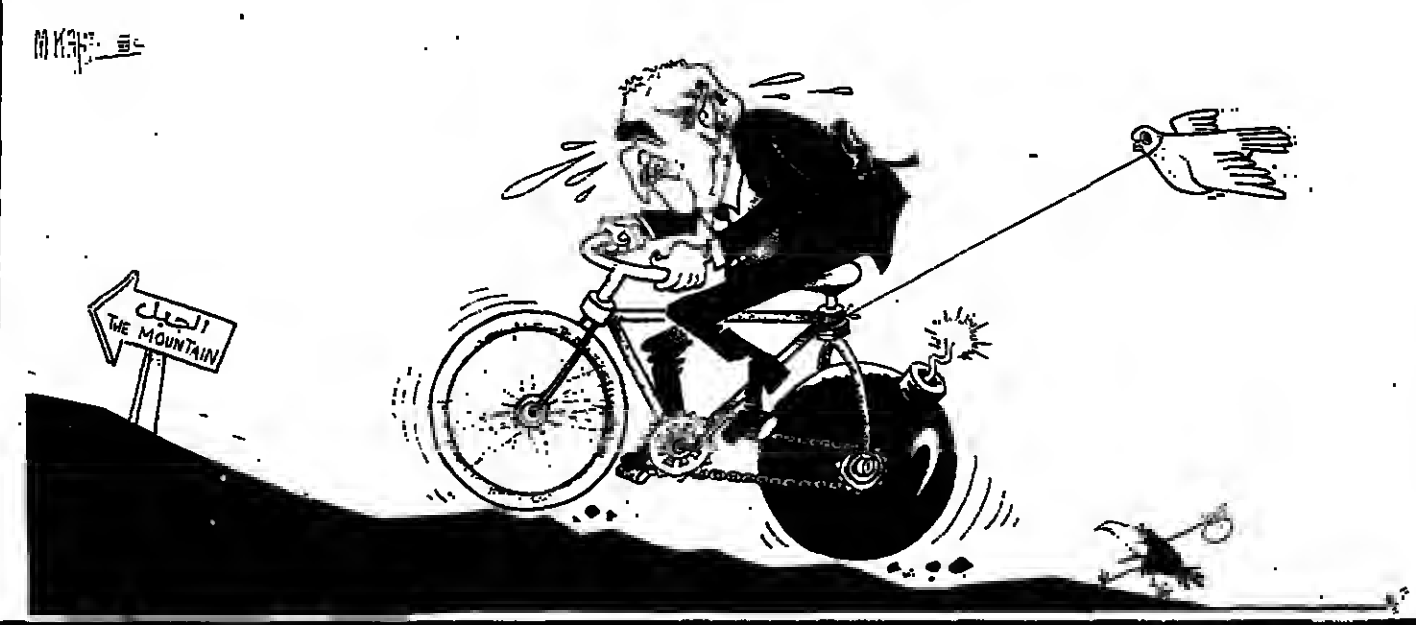
conservation: The Jordanian citizen consumes more than double the international average as an absolute per capita share, we also consume three times the international average for each \$1000 of gross national product, and four times the American oil consumption as a ratio to commodity exports, which in 1981 was 101 per cent in Jordan (the highest in the world) against 26 per cent in America, 48 per cent in Japan, 36 per cent in Israel, and 27 per cent in the set of countries described as high average income countries of which Jordan is one.

I further consulted the annual report of the International Bank for Development (1984)

to find that average growth in energy consumption during the period 1974-1981 was 16.1 per cent in Jordan against 7.8 per cent only in the set of countries similar to Jordan in its level of economic development. Among 126 countries covered by the report, Jordan's growth rate in yearly energy consumption was not exceeded except by four countries, of which three are oil-producing ones.

We are pleased that the government has at last worked out a national energy programme to be announced soon, and we hope that this programme will spell the answer to our problem of too much energy consumption beyond our means.

Arab News



Superpowers seek a way back to arms talks after a year's break

By Sidney Weiland

Reuter

LONDON — Twelve months after the breakdown of arms talks, the superpowers are trying to find a way back.

The return trek seems to need adroit diplomatic footwork, possibly more than it took to get there in the first place, and Western officials say Moscow especially is discovering that walking out last November was easier than coming back in.

Soviet negotiators stormed out in Geneva on Nov. 23, almost two years after talks on medium-range missiles began.

The walkout followed just nine days after the first of 572 new U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles reached Western Europe.

"The Soviet Union considers further participation in these talks impossible," then Soviet President Yuri Andropov declared.

A year later, Mr. Andropov's successor Konstantin Chernenko is talking about a possible U.S.-Soviet summit, and President Reagan says arms control will be a key goal in his second term.

"We are prepared to move ahead as soon as possible," White House spokesman Larry Speakes said last week.

The anniversary of the Geneva walkout finds the Soviet Union and the Reagan administration deeply embroiled in quiet diplomatic efforts to revive a dialogue next year.

Leading U.S. newspapers reported Wednesday that Washington had received a message from Moscow last weekend that could pave the way to an early resumption of negotiations.

On both sides, the harsh rhetoric in use only a few months ago has given way to markedly conciliatory statements.

Soviet and U.S. envoys in both capitals have started talking again in private about arms control prospects, and the United States has aired new ideas for a second phase of negotiations.

"But there is an obvious hesitation," a senior Western arms control expert says. "The Soviets don't want to lose face by rushing back into talks, and the United States doesn't want to start a new presidential term by offering concessions."

Apart from renewed talk about a summit, encouraged in remarks by Mr. Reagan shortly after his reelection on Nov. 6, Washington has done nothing to dampen speculation that Secretary of State George Shultz may visit Moscow early next year.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, who met Mr. Reagan for the first time in Washington in September, conferred this week with the U.S. ambassador in Moscow, Arthur Hartman.

"Everything is ready, providing the Soviets take the offer, for the reopening of negotiations," French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson said Tuesday after talks with Mr. Shultz.

While the momentum towards reopening arms talks appears to be growing, Western officials caution it will take time to get the pieces together. But they say the effort is on track.

Last weekend, Mr. Chernenko said it was too soon for a summit but held out hopes for one later. He also called on Washington to "join in the search for practical solutions."

Mr. Shultz, who has pressed for "concrete deeds" from Moscow, urged Kremlin leaders to stop issuing vague public statements and move back "into the private processes of diplomacy," Mr. Reagan said he was confident "we can make progress."

Even a mini-crisis over Soviet military supplies to Nicaragua and the testing last week of a U.S. anti-satellite weapon failed to dent widespread optimism that arms talks are likely to resume by

midsummer 1985 at the latest.

The West Germans, usually upbeat over arms control, now seem cautious in assessing the prospects for a new round.

German diplomats say they suspect Moscow will wait, at least until the spring, to assess American intentions and size up the effect of any changes Mr. Reagan makes among his arms advisers.

U.S. officials are weighing the possible appointment on both sides of arms control "Tsars" or overall coordinators.

Mr. Reagan has also canvassed an "umbrella" approach, under which various negotiations would be broadly linked to provide what he calls a "road map" charting the end effects of arms control after a 20-year span or longer.

This dovetails with an older idea: amalgamation of the intermediate-range (INF) missile talks with strategic arms negotiations (START), which are also stalled. Moscow abandoned the START talks last December.

Lower-key talks on force levels and security measures in Europe are continuing despite the freeze on major talks.

The umbrella approach is being quickly explored by Soviet diplomats, some of whom have professed themselves puzzled by it.

Funds cut might damage the BBC

By Ronald Thomson

Reuter

LONDON — If an angry tone filters through carefully modulated accents on the airwaves from London, it is simply because the beeb is furious with the British government.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), affectionately known as the beeb, faces government-ordered cuts in funds for prestigious overseas radio services heard by a regular audience of more than 100 million around the world.

It is particularly upset over the fact that the reductions will be imposed at a time when such rival agencies as the Voice of America are rolling in money and outpacing the BBC in the audibility and extent of broadcasts to foreign countries.

"There's no doubt that we remain the most highly regarded international radio organisation but any cut in our funds makes it harder to keep up the standards," said Geoff Robertson, political correspondent of the English-language World Service.

The BBC's external output is financed by the Foreign Office, which announced last week that

the funds for 1985-86 would be trimmed by more than one million sterling (\$1.2 million).

Condemnation of the move came quickly from the state-chartered but politically independent BBC, which commented:

"At first sight it is difficult to see how this kind of cut in expenditure can be found without some damage to broadcast activities."

"It contrasts markedly with the \$1.2 billion that the United States government has just made available in new funds for the Voice of America."

The beeb remains proud of its role as "an upholder of the values of free societies," in the words of a former chairman.

As Britain's influence in world affairs declined with the loss of empire after World War II, so the BBC fostered its international image as a neutral purveyor of unbiased news and unfettered opinion.

Overseas broadcasts go out in 37 languages, including the round-the-clock world service in English, and carry 720 hours of programmes every week.

The BBC even claims a regular audience of two million in the United States, but it says its greatest

strength is in Africa and the Indian Sub-Continent.

"What many foreigners find hard to believe is that there is no government control," Mr. Robertson told Reuters.

"The foreign office has no say in the content of programmes although it can tell us, for instance, that it would like six hours a day broadcast in Russian."

"I recall that at the start of the Afghan crisis in 1979 we were urged by the Foreign Office to build up our Pashtu-language service to people in Afghanistan and Pakistan which we did, but with absolutely no interference over what we said."

The external services, run from Bush House in the heart of London, cost 64.3 million sterling (\$77 million) in the current year for a mix of news and analysis along with drama, comedy, music and quiz shows.

Successive governments compliment the service for working in Britain's national interests, but Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative administration says the BBC cannot be excluded from its drive to bring down public spending.

Only three years ago the corporation had to close Italian, Spa-

nish and Maltese services, also cutting back broadcasts in French to Europe and Portuguese to Brazil, as a result of similar economies imposed by the Thatcher government.

Officials acutely compare the BBC's struggle with a growing Soviet investment in Moscow Radio's overseas services, which broadcast for 2,150 hours a week in 84 languages.

The Voice of America will soon be transmitting for 2,500 hours in 60 languages, dwarfing the output from London, the officials say.

But at least the Thatcher government has maintained its backing for a 10-year, 100 million sterling (\$120 million) project to improve the BBC's audibility in areas, such as Japan and East Africa, where reception is often poor.

It means that plans to upgrade Hong Kong transmitters will go ahead at a cost of about two million sterling (\$2.2 million).

"By the early 1990s we will have a limited number of higher power transmitters but by and large we will be relying on those of 250 kilowatts," said chief engineer Bert Galloo.

"By then most other countries will have 500 kilowatts and we will be behind again."

Bolivia flounders in political stalemate

President Hernan Siles Zuazo of Bolivia has been in office for two years — something of a record in his country. Mary Helen Spooner, recently in La Paz, assesses his recent offer to stand down.

ANOTHER act was played out in Bolivia's political tragedy-comedy recently as President Hernan Siles Zuazo, threatened with a prolonged general strike and mounting criticism from his opponents, offered to call early elections and leave office next year.

But the president's proposal, which came just a few weeks after he staged a hunger strike in a vain effort to coax a full in the country's political warring, may not be sufficient.

President Siles has it a condition of his offer that his opponents reach some kind of political truce in order that the elections, tentatively scheduled for next May, would be carried out in an orderly fashion.

At least two political parties on opposite ends of the political spectrum continue to demand his immediate resignation, while a faction of President Siles' own National Revolutionary Party (MNR) has decried his offer as a cynical political manoeuvre.

The country's powerful labour federation, the Central Obrero Boliviano (COB), says it is more concerned with the government's response to its members' economic hardships rather than any change of president.

Since coming into office two years ago the Siles government has announced four economic packages that included devaluations of the Bolivian peso. These measures have sparked strikes and countryside protests by the COB, and the authorities have been forced to decree compensatory wage hikes, which in turn have fuelled inflation and rendered the initial measures useless.

Inflation last year was 328 per cent, and during the first nine months of this year it has soared to 1,300 per cent.

The country's current account deficit is running at around \$300 million, and in order to pull itself out of the economic rut the country needs massive foreign borrowing.

Since May 29 Bolivia has declared a moratorium on interest and principal payments on \$720 million in commercial foreign debt, although the authorities have promised creditors they will fulfil their obligations once the country is able to do so. However, the necessary accord with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) seems a politically impossible dream.

Bolivia's economic crisis has been left to deteriorate for so long that any IMF austerity measures would be extremely painful. The COB, which has exercised a near-veto power over government economic policy, has demanded the authorities implement a package of economic measures which include a price freeze, wage increases, government audit of private companies and virtual default on foreign debt. In private, Bolivian authorities complain the COB leaders have no idea of the additional economic damage a debt default could have.

"When we try to explain the possible repercussions, such as the confiscation of Bolivian state holdings overseas, the labour leaders always insist that this will never happen, that Bolivia will be protected by some great outpouring of Latin American solidarity, one official said.

The economic uncertainty has given way to shortages of bread, meat, petrol and other basic necessities as distributors stockpile their goods in anticipation of price increases. Bolivia's parallel market is trading dollars at three times the official rate of Pesos 5,000 to the dollar. The wheelbarrow has to arrive but the wallet is threatened with obsolescence. A customer who changes \$100 at a La Paz money exchange receives a broadsheeted wad of 1,000 Peso bills and a paper bag in which to carry the currency.

The only promising area of the Bolivian economy is unfortunately the country's massive cocaine trade, worth an estimated \$2 billion annually. Government efforts to combat the trade have been limited by a lack of resources, an understandable reluctance to confront the cocaine dealers' private militias and — according to the government's critics — complicity in the trade by some officials.

Recently Mr. Robert Suarez, known as Bolivia's cocaine king, offered the government a low interest \$2 billion loan in exchange for a free hand in pursuing his business. President Siles' right-wing opponents in the Bolivian Congress have made much of a secret meeting between Mr. Suarez and the head of Bolivia's drug enforcement agency earlier this year. The government responded by firing the official and announcing a countryside manhunt for Mr. Suarez, whose extradition is sought by U.S. drug enforcement officials.

The U.S. has offered Bolivia \$220 million in financial assistance if the authorities make a serious effort to combat the drug trade. Last August the government dispatched 1,500 army troops as well as a 150-man anti-drug force into the Chapare rain forest, the centre of Bolivia's cocaine industry. But the move was announced two weeks ahead of time giving major traffickers more than enough time to move their operations elsewhere.

"Bolivia is a very big country, and we have no radar on our borders," says Mr. Gustavo Sanchez, vice-minister of the interior and the man who organised the Chapare raid. "The narcotics traffickers can fly directly from Miami and Colombia to their clandestine airstrips in the interior."

The Bolivian army has been less than pleased with its involvement in the anti-drug effort, viewing it as an activity more appropriate to the country's police. Also, the economic crisis and the impasse this has boosted the

LETTERS

No religious quota

To the Editor:

I WAS surprised to read in the Jordan Times of Dec. 1, 1984, in the story by Sa'ad Hattar on the new Executive Committee of the PLO, the mention of a member of the committee representing the Christian Palestinians. Neither the Executive Committee nor any other institution of the PLO is based on any form of religious quotas, a policy of which the Palestinian people are rightly proud.

Hanna Nasir, Amman.

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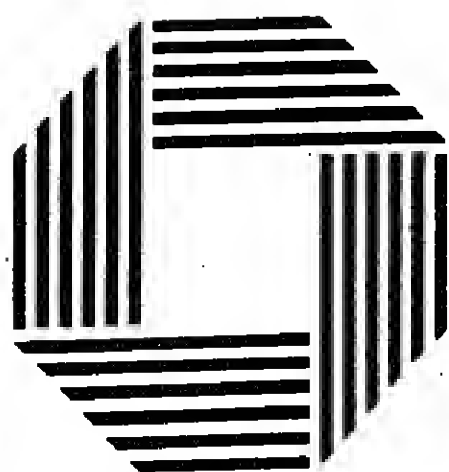
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Everton's lead narrowed in English Division One

LONDON (R) — Everton continued to set the pace in the English soccer league Saturday, but they are beginning to take on the haunted appearance of a weary fox pursued by a pack of hounds.

A 1-1 draw at home against Sheffield Wednesday put Everton on the 33-point mark, just one point ahead of Manchester United and Arsenal, both of whom won in convincing fashion.

To crown a dismal day for the Goodison outfit, they lost top scorer Adrian Heath in the first half when he suffered suspected knee damage in a tackle with Bryan Marwood.

The Wednesday winger collected a caution and was later carried off himself following an incident with Everton midfielder Peter Reid, who followed his victim into the referee's notebook.

Everton looked anything but idle material, and with Liverpool going down at Chelsea, the new champions are likely to come from the chasing trio, which includes Tottenham on 30 points.

Sheffield Wednesday, who have already beaten Liverpool away this season, went agonisingly close to a rare double against the champions' city rivals Everton.

They took the lead in the third minute through midfielder Andy Blair, who pounced on an uncharacteristic mistake by Everton sweeper Kevin Ratcliffe and neatly tucked the ball behind goalkeeper Neville Southall.

But despite outplaying Everton for much of the game, Wednesday had to settle for a point when Brian Sharp equalised from the penalty spot before the interval.

Manchester United still appear the most potent outfit in the land, though they continually infuriate the Old Trafford following by showing only glimpses of their true worth.

But there was no doubting the quality of their football against Norwich, with young Welshman Mark Hughes again taking a sta-

ring role in the 2-0 win.

Hughes, who has overtaken Alan Brazil, Frank Stapleton and Norman Whiteside as United's number one striker, created the 13th minute opener for Bryan Robson with a precision cross which the England captain majestically headed home.

Nineteen minutes later Hughes struck again when he collected a Jesper Olsen pass and beat Norwich goalkeeper Chris Woods with an explosive drive from the edge of the box.

Arsenal fans showed just what they thought of manager Don Howe's decision to drop Scottish international Charlie Nicholas when the lowest crowd of the season watched the 3-1 win over Luton at Highbury.

But Howe's gamble paid off when reserve striker Ian Allison, signed on a free transfer from fourth division Colchester, shot 'the Gunners' in front with a magnificent solo effort after 17 minutes.

Allinson, who cost Arsenal exactly £750,000 (\$900,000) less than Nicholas, took a throw-in from Paul Mariner, spotted Luton goalkeeper Les Sealey off his line, and struck a superb dipping shot high into the net from 20 metres.

England colleagues Tony Woodcock and Viv Anderson raised the tally to three before Brian Stein scored Luton's late consolation.

Liverpool's surge up the table came to an abrupt halt against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, where they have now been beaten on five successive visits.

Chelsea dominated the opening exchanges and deservedly went ahead when Kerry Dixon notched his 20th goal of the season in the 10th minute. Dixon collected a

loose ball out on the right touchline, swerved past Alan Hansen, and left Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar clawing thin air with a fierce swerving drive.

Liverpool fought back to level terms somewhat against the run of play on the half-hour mark when Danish international Jan Molby scored his first goal for the club since his transfer from Ajax in the close season.

But Chelsea were not to be denied and they secured a famous victory when Joe McLaughlin and David Speedie made the final scoreline 3-1 in the second half.

Maurice Johnston, who enjoyed a sensational season with Watford last year, is still finding goals easy to come by with Glasgow Celtic north of the border.

Johnston scored a hat-trick in the 5-1 win over Dundee which took Celtic's goal haul to an astonishing 17 in three games.

But Johnston's heroics could not help Celtic close the gap on Premier League leaders Watford, who remained three points clear thanks to a 2-1 away win over Hearts.

Ian Cowan shot Aberdeen ahead after 30 minutes and although player-manager Alec MacDonald equalised before the interval, Billy Stark scored a deserved winner in the 51st minute.

Platini named Player of the Year

LONDON (AP) — French midfielder star Michel Platini has been voted Player of the Year by readers of and contributors to the London-based monthly publication, World Soccer.

Runner-up to Platini, who plays for Juventus of Turin, was striker Ian Rush of Wales and Liverpool. Zico, the Brazilian who won the 1983 award, came third.

Like Platini, Zico plays in the Italian league with Udinese. In fourth place came Fernando Chalanca, of Portugal and Bordeaux, with another French midfielder, Jean Tigana, fifth.

The magazine's awards were dominated by France. In addition to Platini, the French national team won the World Team of the Year award and manager Michel Hidalgo — who steered France to the European Championship title in the summer — received the Manager of the Year accolade.

Syria, Qatar draw in Asian Cup soccer

SINGAPORE (R) — Syria rallied from an early setback to draw 1-1 with Qatar in the opening Group 'A' match of the Asian Cup Soccer Championship Saturday night.

Qatar shocked the 15,000 crowd when midfielder Ibrahim Khalifan Ahmed's powerful 25-metre shot beat Syrian goalkeeper Malek Shakkouhi in the sixth minute.

Syria equalised a minute after halftime when striker Foadi Aziz shot against the post and Qatar captain Mubarak Amber Aly deflected the rebound into his own goal.

Qatar came close to snatching a winner in the 69th minute when striker Khaled Mohammad's 30-metre drive beat Shakkouhi only to bounce off a post.

Three-times cup winners Iran trounced the United Arab Emirates 3-0 in Group 'B'.

Iran, triumphant in 1968, 1972 and 1976, scored in the 27th minute when striker Hamid Al-Doosti sprinted unchallenged into the penalty area and sent a left-foot drive past Emirates goalkeeper Abdul Qader Mohammad.

Midfielder Shahrokh Bayani made it 2-0 from the penalty spot in the 85th minute after Iranian striker Naser Mohammad Khani was brought down by defender Hasan Mhhammad.

Khani was on target two minutes later when he slotted the ball home after Qader fumbled.

Monaco goes to court over Grand Prix racing

PARIS (R) — The Automobile Club of Monaco (ACM) went to court here Friday to demand the reinstatement of the Monaco Grand Prix on the Formula One World Championship calendar.

The court, convened for the emergency hearing requested by the ACM in its dispute with the International Automobile Federation (FIA), will give its verdict next Wednesday.

The Monaco Grand Prix was omitted from the 1985 calendar because of a row over television rights, following the ACM's renewal of a contract with the U.S. network ABC. The other Formula One race organisers abide by an agreement which gives FIA the transmission rights.

Jean-Louis Delvolle, the ACM's lawyer, recalled that a court had ordered suspension of sanctions imposed by the International Motor Sports Federation (FISA) against the Monaco club last May. This had enabled the Monaco Grand Prix to go ahead then.

He called for an injunction against FIA for the race to be run in 1985, too.

Bernard Loitron, FIA's lawyer, said the Monaco government had broken off negotiations earlier this month on the Grand Prix and the Monte Carlo Rally.

Loitron said the federation was prepared to re-establish the Grand Prix and allow World Championship points if the ACM respected international agreements by settling fees and television rights.

FISA said earlier this week it had never taken a decision to suppress or prohibit the Monaco Grand Prix and added that the date of May 19 was still free on the World Championship calendar.

In the national assembly, French Sports Minister Alain Calmat defended the imposition of a levy on the Monte Carlo Rally for use of French territory.

France's Pelen wins opening slalom event

COURMAYEUR, Italy (R) — French skier Perrine Pelen equalled Swiss Erika Hess's record of 15 World Cup women's slalom wins Saturday with a victory in the first race of the new season.

Olympic silver medalist Pelen notched a total time of one minute 34.18 seconds on the tough 56-gate course here after overturning

Pelen was lying fourth on 48.25 but triumphed with a fast, aggressive performance in the second leg.

After recent warm weather and rain, the organisers at Courmayeur, beneath Mont Blanc, moved the start 1,000 metres higher than usual to 2,197 metres.

IOC divided over sanctions against boycotting countries

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) opened a special two-day meeting Saturday, sharply divided over proposals to punish countries which boycott future Olympic Games.

Opposition to the proposed sanctions came not only from the Soviet bloc — which is threatening a new boycott at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, — but from many non-communist countries which warned that sanctions would harm the athletes more than their governments and could help to break up the Olympic movement.

The 88-member IOC was convened to the first extraordinary session in its 90-year history to consider amending the Olympic Charter to make participation in the Olympic Games obligatory and to punish absentee nations.

The nine-member IOC executive proposed during the Los Angeles Olympics earlier this year that boycotting nations should be barred from at least two subsequent Olympic Games. The games are held every four years, with IOC financial support to all participating teams.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch opened the session with a pledge to go ahead with the Seoul Olympics despite the Soviet bloc boycott threats.

Samaranch said the IOC was determined to maintain its independence despite the political pressures to which it was sub-

jected by some governments — and even by some of its own members.

He denounced the American-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games and the Soviet-led boycott of the Los Angeles Games as attempts to undermine the IOC's independence and integrity.

"We must not give in to any pressure, even internal, which would alienate... our independence of judgement. We fought over this principle in order that the games take place in Moscow in 1980. We did the same for Los Angeles in 1984," he said.

"We will do the same again in order that the games of the 24th Olympiad take place as planned in Seoul in 1988."

Seoul has spent millions of dollars on Olympic preparations since it was selected as the 1988 site three years ago. The choice was vigorously opposed at the time by Soviet IOC members Vitaly Smirnov and Constantin Andrianov and by other Soviet bloc members. The communist-ruled countries have no relations with South Korea.

The Soviet news agency TASS reported from Havana that Cuban leader Fidel Castro wrote to Samaranch to denounce the choice of Seoul because of what he called the "international situation there."

According to the TASS report, Castro urged the IOC president to make a "well-analysed decision" concerning the Seoul Games.

Cuba was one of the nations which joined the Los Angeles boycott. Samaranch has consistently refused to bow to pressure for changing the venue of the 1988 games.

The heaviest pressure came from the Soviet Union itself. In a joint letter to Samaranch before the IOC session, Smirnov and Andrianov told the IOC president in thinly veiled terms that the Soviet bloc would boycott the 1988 games unless they were moved to another country.

The choice of Seoul ignored the "political climate" in South Korea, the two Soviets declared, and inevitably created numerous problems. The letter did not identify these problems.

At the same time, Smirnov and Andrianov, backed by other Soviet bloc members, declared that the executive board's sanctions proposals were "obviously unacceptable."

They insisted that participation in future Olympics must remain strictly voluntary and proposed the inclusion of government officials in Olympic bodies to prevent such "problems" in the future.

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Cash issued with code violation at open

MELBOURNE (R) — Fiery Australian Pat Cash was issued with a code violation for throwing his racket as he struggled into the fourth round of the Australian Open Tennis Championships here Saturday.

Cash collected the violation after the sixth game of the fourth set in his three hour 17 minute match with tall Swiss right-hander Jakob Hlasek.

After Hlasek held service to level the set at 3-3, Cash bounced his racket into the crowd, narrowly missing a lineswoman.

The volatile teenager eventually won 5-7, 6-3, 6-3, 5-7, 7-5 but admitted afterwards: "I felt dead out there. I wasn't feeling quite there. Jakob has good groundstrokes, returns well and pas-

ses well but I wasn't getting to balls I normally would. I felt like crying."

Hlasek, ranked 87th in the world, gave the Australian number one more than a few problems.

He stunned Cash when he captured the first set and did so again when he broke serve in the 11th game of the fourth set to take a 6-5 lead. Then he held his own serve to level the match at two sets all.

Cash, who said he had been feeling tired for a couple of days, added: "I hope it will pass. There's nothing physically wrong. I just feel dead," he said.

Cash next meets John Sadri, who fought back to beat his

fellow-American Tom Gullikson 4-6, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2, 6-4 in another third round match.

Sweden's Stefan Edberg eased through his third round encounter with Gullikson's twin brother Tim with an impressive 6-1, 6-2, 7-5 victory.

The 18-year-old former junior Grand Slam champion shut out Gullikson from the start and the American struggled to defend himself against Edberg's heavy serve and volley attack.

Australian John Frawley, 19, also reached the fourth round with an upset 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 win over 13th seed Mike Bauer of the United States.

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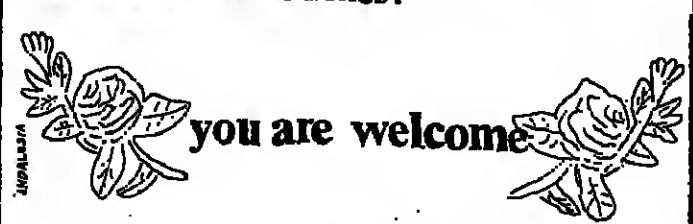
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Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Oman, N. Yemen seek new credit

BAHRAIN (R) — Oman is raising its second large medium-term loan from international banks, bankers said Saturday.

A spokesman for the Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank said the bank had been asked to arrange a \$300 million medium-term loan for Oman and a sale of notes to raise a further \$100 million. Speculation had been growing among international bankers that Oman would soon resort to a second major borrowing from international banks.

The country's first recourse to the international capital market was a \$300 million loan, also arranged by Gulf International Bank, signed in June of last year.

The bank spokesman declined to give details of the terms of the new credit, but they were expected to be fiercer than last year's loan, when the sultanate paid 1/2 percentage point over interbank rates for two years and 1/4 point over for the remaining five.

With its international borrowings a rare event, Oman is a popular credit for international banks and last year's loan could have easily been raised to \$500 million.

Oman is one of seven Arab Gulf governments which are shareholders of Gulf International Bank, and the bank was consequently in a good position to win the business, bankers said.

Meanwhile, North Yemeni minister of economy and industry Mr. Ahmad Qaid Barakat left Saturday for Washington for talks on an \$8 million loan from the World Bank's International Development Agency (IDA).

Mr. Barakat told reporters the loan would fund 55 industrial projects in the country.

The talks with IDA officials, spread over several days, would also concern the implementation of projects covered by two previous IDA loans to North Yemen, he said.

Reagan considers cutting spending

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has tentatively decided to freeze overall government spending at current levels in a bid to reduce the U.S. budget deficit.

But White House spokesman Mr. Larry Speakes said Friday a decision on military spending was not likely until next week.

Mr. Speakes said Mr. Reagan had made initial decisions on about half the U.S. budget in a bid to hold spending on government programmes to about \$830 billion in the 1986 financial year starting on Oct. 1.

The president had not yet ruled on Budget Director David Stockman's bid to pare military spending.

One administration official, who asked not to be named, said the freeze proposal was largely aimed at making budget cuts more palatable and did not differ significantly from Mr. Stockman's bid to cut spending by \$45 billion in 1986.

"To achieve the 1985 spending level in 1986 requires Mr. Stockman's \$45 billion cut," the official told Reuters.

Congressional leaders told Mr. Reagan on Thursday that an across-the-board freeze would have a better chance of approval than the selective cuts offered by Mr. Stockman.

Mr. Stockman told the political leaders he wanted to reduce the deficit from about \$210 billion this year to \$100 billion in 1988 by a three-year spending cut package of about \$240 billion.

The White House proposal would only freeze the total spending level, not all individual programmes. Spending would still rise for some programmes and offsetting cost reductions would be required for others.

French, Italians may finance Iraqi pipeline

PARIS (R) — France is expected to lend Iraq about 900 million francs (\$100 million) and Italy perhaps double that to construct two pipelines linking Iraqi oil fields to Saudi Arabia's Red Sea port of Yanbu, a French trade official told Reuters Friday.

Iraq has suffered a sharp cut in its oil exports as a result of its four-year war with Iran and is counting on the pipelines to boost its oil exports and relieve its strained finances.

The two pipelines, which were begun last month and are due to be completed in 11 months, will together add 1.6 million barrels a day to Iraq's oil exports.

The financing of the pipelines will largely replace Iraq's earlier plan to repay the Franco-Italian consortium building the pipelines in crude oil, the official said.

He said the French government is still waiting for a formal Iraqi request for project financing, but has already decided to back such a credit in principle.

The greater size of the Italian credits reflects the larger share of the \$508 million project going to Italian firms in the consortium.

GATT narrows differences

GENEVA (R) — The 90-nation world trade body GATT has moved one step further towards a new round of global trade negotiations, GATT director General Arthur Dunkel said Friday.

Mr. Dunkel told a news conference on the final day of the annual meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT): "We have now the ingredients for wider trade negotiations."

The work programme approved Friday by the conference, a text outlining topics for future discussion between member nations, introduced a number of new areas into GATT's field of influence, including trade in services, counterfeiting and agriculture.

After long, tense behind-the-scenes consultations, a last-minute compromise was reached Thursday on the vexed issue of global trade in services such as banking, insurance, telecommunications and transport.

The European Community, Japan and the U.S. called for a senior-level GATT meeting as soon as possible to begin preparations for a new round of trade talks. Last week's meeting ended without setting a date, but delegates said a consensus was emerging that it should be some time next summer.

The row over services, between the United States and developing countries, had stalled the week-long meeting and was seen as a serious threat to progress towards a new round of negotiations.

U.S. Deputy Trade Representative Mike Smith had earlier indicated Washington would oppose GATT's planned 1985 budget if the work programme, including services, was not sanctioned.

Developing countries, who want to protect their own infant services industries and are angered by the failure of major industrial nations to honour pledges on ruling back protectionism, are reluctant to discuss the services question in a future round of trade

talks.

India's representative to the GATT meetings, Mr. Sbrigang Shukla, speaking on behalf of developing countries, said they would only consider specific multilateral negotiations restricted to goods, farm products and natural resources.

"It was far too early to think of any kind of global talks about rules on services, he told a news conference.

EC requests clarification on U.S. steel import ban

Meanwhile, the European Community (EC) Friday asked the United States to give the reasons for the curbs it announced last week on the import of steel pipes from the community.

The request was included in a statement issued by the community at GATT meeting in Geneva.

It sought prompt consultations with the U.S. under GATT rules, which say the two sides in a dispute should agree on the value of trade affected by unilateral import curbs.

In response to pressure from domestic industry, Washington announced on Tuesday that it was halting imports of community pipes and tubes until the end of this year.

In January, the community's share of the U.S. market for these products would be restricted to 5.9 per cent, compared with recent actual sales of 14.6 per cent, it said.

The community statement said

order to regain markets lost several years ago.

Romania also tried to boost exports of oil products.

Polish coal sales to the traditional West European markets were particularly successful, increasing by over 20 per cent in volume from January to June, the report said.

Japan doubled its purchases from Eastern Europe and the United States increased them by almost a half. But East Europe's share in the U.S. and Japanese markets remained low in absolute terms, it said.

Western exports to East Europe, which had also fallen for three consecutive years, started to recover in the second half of 1983 and during the first half of 1984, the ECE said.

There were higher Western sales of food this year, particularly to East Germany and Romania, although these were partially offset by lower exports of machinery.

Western purchases from the Soviet Union rose moderately, by two per cent in volume in the first half of this year after a seven per cent increase in all of 1983, the ECE said.

It added that this was largely due to trade in oil and oil products.

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Spot oil rates firm in Europe

ROTTERDAM (R) — The European spot market for oil showed signs of firming Friday after Monday's low of \$27 a barrel for Britain's North Sea Brent crude.

But Friday's price of around \$27.34 was still far below the official price of \$28.65 and traders, pointing to short-term factors like delays to liftings in the North Sea and a shortage of Soviet crude, hesitated to predict a sustained price recovery.

While members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) struggle to hold to agreed price and output levels, non-OPEC Egypt and Mexico both announced that they would keep their December prices unchanged.

The next key decision rests with Norway, whose unilateral cut in rates for its North Sea oil briefly created turmoil in world markets last month.

Norway's key Ekofisk crude currently sells at \$28.95 a barrel, and state oil company Statoil is expected to top 30 cents of this next Wednesday or Thursday to bring it into line with Britain's Brent crude.

But some traders believe Statoil will have to go lower still, putting renewed pressure on OPEC and especially on Nigeria, which markets a comparable crude.

They also noted that Egypt had for the first time told customers its prices for next month were only provisionally unchanged, indicating that it could change its mind if the market demanded it.

Traders involved in Soviet business said the lack of Soviet shipments, officially attributed to bad weather and increased domestic needs, was more likely an attempt to create disquiet about December supplies, showing support for OPEC efforts to prevent an oil price collapse.

Furthermore, Moscow was battling with customers to avoid cuttings in contract prices in December, which could set the tone for the 1985 contracts currently being negotiated.

Noting that Britain's oil output was a record 2.68 million barrels per day in October and that Norway was likely to cut its prices, one trader commented: "The Soviets are acting like responsible producers and restricting supplies to support their market. It's a pity North Sea producers do not do the same."

West Germany's former economics minister Mr. Otto Lambsdorff said the import ban was "particularly grotesque" as some of the products affected did not compete with goods made by U.S. firms.

This was worse than protectionism and contrasted with U.S. expressions of approval of free world trade, he said.

The community statement said

order to regain markets lost several years ago.

Romania also tried to boost exports of oil products.

Polish coal sales to the traditional West European markets were particularly successful, increasing by over 20 per cent in volume from January to June, the report said.

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YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 2, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Except for a slow start in the morning, this is a very good day for you to decide upon new and fascinating plans of action that appeal to you. You would be wise to discuss them with others who may be affected.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) This is a day for new beginnings if you are motivated to go after your goals in a more determined fashion.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A partner could delay you in the morning, but later make up for lost time and quietly come to right decisions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Plan how to attain personal aims by a more direct method and go right to work on it. If you need assistance, go to an alert friend.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Putting more sparkle into your outside affairs is wise now, and you get support from an influential person.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You can develop by extending your interests and being more enthused about them. Look to an imaginative new friend for help.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A day to make your mate more aware of your charms and good points and have greater affection. Be off to romantic places.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Getting together with the most progressive persons you know and listening to their ideas can be most profitable for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A good day to concentrate on what should be done to have more efficiency at your work, so plan wisely for the week ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Some duty you perform in the morning should not deter you from seeking amusements you like later in the day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You know what kin desire of you so forget the old and get into new interests and please them. Be happier.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Early study your philosophy of life and see if you are living up to its principles and tenets, and if not, do so and get better results.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If you use more modern methods, you can gain the abundance that is uppermost on your mind. Listen to the suggestions of others.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... be or she will be alert to writings and world happenings and should have a fine education, and much success can occur during the lifetime. There is the tendency to be overly independent here, so teach to be more cooperative and also to complete one project before going on to another one.

THE Daily Crossword by Linda Hooper

ACROSS
1 Tableland
5 Pressure groups
8 Residence
14 Pearl Buck character
15 Biblical land
16 Having two feet
17 Act the caretaker
18 Gymnastic tests
20 Sculpin
22 Curious negative
23 Neck-and-neck
24 Go over the details
26 Nail
28 Covered by water
31 Certain clouds
32 — were
33 Cork is there
37 Part of a telegraphic signature
38 Attend to the turkey
39 "Arabian Nights" woodcutter

40 Balkan dweller
41 Bellicose god
42 Shantia's instrument
43 Land in water
44 Honeyed
46 Socialize
48 Mate's jure
50 Have being
51 Coverlet
57 Award-winning play
58 Trudge
60 Flambeau
61 Former
62 "Tonight" host
63 Your...
64 Race of Norse gods
65 Norms: abbr.

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1 Marquand's detective
2 All
3 All there
4 US composer
5 Fowl
6 Way to Fairbanks
7 Singer Vikki
8 Urban air
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10 Castle down
11 Have thoughts on
12 Transfer item
13 A Ford
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42 Shantia's instrument
43 Land in water
44 Honeyed
46 Socialize
48 Mate's jure
50 Have being
51 Coverlet
57 Award-winning play
58 Trudge
60 Flambeau
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62 "Tonight" host
63 Your...
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Hawke fails to achieve landslide victory in polls

SYDNEY (R)—Labour Prime Minister Bob Hawke has won Saturday's general election in Australia but his majority in parliament will be reduced, forecasts by the official Electoral Commission showed.

The forecasts, issued with two-thirds of the vote counted, indicated Mr. Hawke would have an 18-seat majority in the expanded 148-seat House of Assembly. Pre-election opinion polls had predicted that Mr. Hawke would romp home with a bigger majority than his 25-seat landslide win over the Liberal-National Alliance in March, 1983.

After claiming victory in the election, Mr. Hawke told a news conference that his Labour government had hoped for a bigger majority, adding: "We had hoped to get a bit more icing on the cake and that's something for next time."

Mr. Hawke paid tribute to opposition leader Andrew Peacock for "fighting a tenacious campaign" which produced a swing of

up to two per cent back to the Liberal-National Coalition.

Mr. Peacock, who went into the election last month with opinion polls showing him the most unpopular federal party leader ever, told his supporters he would win the next election in three years' time.

The opposition leader, who had campaigned tirelessly, told a Melbourne news conference: "If I can do that in 50 days (campaigning) just think of what I will do in the next 1,000."

Mr. Peacock had consistently dismissed opinion polls predicting an increased majority for Mr. Hawke. He picked up in popularity in the last week after an impressive televised debate with Mr. Hawke.

The result meant that Mr. Peacock should hold on to his Liberal Party leadership, which had been in question after he lost out to Mr. Hawke in a bitter parliamentary row over organised crime in September, political analysts said.

Disappointed Labour officials tried Saturday night to assess why a predicted landslide had turned sour. Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said it had been "a dreadful result compared to what we had been expecting."

"I think it must be acknowledged that it was an enormously impressive performance by Andrew Peacock," he told reporters.

Mr. Hawke campaigned hard on his government's record during 20 months in power, particularly its economic performance after the breaking of a devastating drought.

Mr. Peacock, deprived of the middle political ground, had campaigned on a range of bread-and-butter issues, particularly a threat that Labour would increase taxes after re-election.

Early counting of votes for half the seats in the Upper House (Senate) showed that Labour would not gain a majority and the balance of power would remain with the small independent Australian Democrats, electoral officials said.

The fledgling Nuclear Disarmament Party (NDP), which took votes away from Labour, polled well in the Senate but under the preferential voting system it was not clear whether the party would win a seat.

Mr. Hawke, who called the polls half-way through a three-year term, laid some of the blame for his reduced majority on voting procedures which produced a high number of invalid votes.

Split papers for the Lower House were running as high as seven per cent and Labour Party officials said the government was the main loser.

Rajiv Gandhi urges national unity

BULANDSHAHR, India (R)—In his first major speech of the Indian election campaign, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi today pledged to continue the policies of his assassinated mother.

Speaking to a crowd of at least 50,000 in this dusty town in northern Uttar Pradesh state, Mr. Gandhi appealed for national unity.

He was wildly cheered when he said Indira Gandhi had repeatedly warned that the nation was in danger before she was murdered a month ago.

"We could see that powerful forces were working to break our country. A month ago these forces acted to kill her. But their forces that India would break up were not rewarded," he said in a 15-minute speech in a government sports stadium.

"We are free and strong even after this great misfortune, but we have to think about how to keep the nation together. We will see that no one can divide the country," Mr. Gandhi added.

He was met with cries of "Rajiv Gandhi Zindabad" (long live Rajiv Gandhi) as he arrived aboard an air force helicopter from New Delhi, 85 kilometres away.

Mr. Gandhi accused India's opposition parties of strengthening a Sikh separatist movement in northern Punjab state.

"The opposition leaders were helping forces which wanted to break up the country," he said.

Plainclothes security men who had accompanied Mr. Gandhi in another helicopter kept a tight guard around him.

"Congress has lifted India again under Indira Gandhi's leadership

Bolivian blackout triggers coup fears

LA PAZ (R)—A power cut in Bolivia's strike-bound capital Friday night triggered fears among residents that the country was undergoing its 181st military coup.

The latest round of talks between officials and trade unionists on the three-day-old general strike was held by candlelight because of the 45-minute blackout, government sources said.

Newspaper employees said callers jammed switchboards asking if the power cut was part of a military takeover to end the impoverished country's two-year-old democracy.

Officials at the State Electricity Board said the trouble was caused by a storm near the Zongo Power Plant in the Andes.

Shortly before the lights went out in La Paz, the Armed Forces Command issued military communiqués number one requesting news media to disregard any information about military affairs from other sources.

The title of the statement was similar to that of communiques issued in the early stages of many of the 180 military coups since Bolivia became independent 159 years ago.

Juan Lechin, leader of the Workers' Confederation (COB) which is staging its seventh general strike this year in protest against harsh austerity measures, told reporters negotiations were expected to resume Saturday.

The COB is seeking better food supplies, a price freeze and pay rises to compensate for government-ordered price increases of 200 per cent for food and up to 1,100 per cent for fuel. Inflation is running at more than 1,000 per cent.

President Hernan Siles Zuazo, sworn in two years ago after nearly two decades of military rule, has said he will cut his four-year term short by one year and hand over power next August after early elections in June.

Armed Forces Chief Gen. Simon Jato Toranzo, seen by government officials as a supporter of democracy, has said that deteriorating conditions could ignite a struggle with unpredictable consequences.

2 miners charged for killing taxi driver

LONDON (AP)—A taxi driver taking a British miner to work with a police escort was killed Friday when a 1-metre concrete post was hurled onto his cab from a bridge, police said. Two miners were charged with murder.

It was the third death stemming from the eight-month-long coal strike, which has sparked industrial violence on a scale unprecedented in modern British history.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in Paris for a meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, called the attack an "utterly despicable deed" of "calculated malice."

"No decent thinking person can support a strike sustained by this

violence and thuggery," the prime minister said. "This is not in the British character. It is not the British way." She challenged Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition Labour Party, which backs the miners' protest, to repudiate strike violence "totally and utterly, unequivocally, clearly and no fudging."

Rebels say Ethiopia abusing famine politically

Rebels say Ethiopia abusing famine politically

LONDON (R)—An Ethiopian guerrilla leader has called for the formation of an international commission to ensure that food aid to the famine-stricken country reached rebel-held areas.

Asafah Hagos, spokesman for the anti-government Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), said no foreign food aid destined for Ethiopia had so far reached the estimated two million threatened by starvation in northern Tigray province.

He said that Tigray was 85 per cent controlled by TPLF guerrillas and that 1,500 people a day were dying of starvation while the population suffered regular bombardments by government forces.

Mr. Hagos told a news conference here that a resettlement programme, announced by the Addis Ababa government as a move to evacuate the people of Tigray from the famine area, was in fact a bid to undermine the TPLF.

"It is a political and military move," Mr. Hagos said. He said an international commission should take charge of supervising the distribution of food aid throughout the country.

The TPLF has been fighting Ethiopia's Marxist government since 1976 in an attempt to gain greater autonomy for their inland province, bordering Eritrea.

The situation for people in TPLF-held areas was so desperate that many were fleeing to Sudan, where Mr. Hagos estimated there were already about 80,000 refugees from Tigray with some 10,000 arriving each week.

Kirsty White, a British member of the Tigray Relief Support Committee, said the few trucks that were able to carry food into the province from Sudan could only travel by night, because of bombing by government planes.

"A major problem was that famine was most serious in rural areas where there was inaccessible by road," White said.

Mail-sorter finds letter bomb addressed to Thatcher

LONDON (AP)—A mail-sorter at a London Post Office discovered a letter bomb addressed to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Friday, police said. Scottish separatists claimed responsibility.

Experts said a "viable incendiary device" was concealed in a white envelope 25.4 cm by 7.6 cm addressed to Mrs. Thatcher at her 10 Downing Street, official residence. The device did not explode and no one was injured, said a statement from Scotland Yard, headquarters of the Metropolitan police.

It gave no further details. But police sources, insisting on anonymity, said the device did not appear to be made by professionals and would not have been likely to cause serious injury.

Press Association (PA), Britain's domestic news agency, said that after the bomb discovery was announced, it received a call from an anonymous man who gave a recognised code word and said he represented the Scottish National Liberation Army.

PA quoted him as saying in a Scottish accent: "This is the SNLA claiming responsibility for the device sent today. More attacks will follow."

The SNLA, which wants Scotland to be independent of the United Kingdom, last claimed responsibility for an attack a year ago, when a bomb at the Royal Artillery Barracks in south east London wounded four soldiers and a passerby.

It has claimed responsibility for sending several letter bombs to other cabinet ministers over the past three years.

It was the third device known to have been mailed in recent years to Mrs. Thatcher.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A8742 ♠A6 ♠AK987
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠
What do you bid now?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠6 ♠AJ1085 ♠AJ53 ♠Q102
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Dbie 2 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQJ643 ♠K1093 ♠8 ♠Q7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.4—East-West, vulnerable, as South you hold:

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠954 ♠AK1062 ♠5 ♠KQ83
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 3 ♠
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ 5 ♠ Pass Pass
What action do you take?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8 ♠107632 ♠J632 ♠AK8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠ ?
What action do you take?



QUEEN, MRS. MUBARAK HOLD TALKS: Her Majesty Queen Noor, accompanying His Majesty King Hussein on a three-day state visit to Egypt, holds talks with the wife of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak immediately after arrival in Cairo Saturday (Al Ra'i photo)

Students sue Playboy over model's cap

ANTWERP, Belgium (R)—A Catholic students' group is taking legal action against the sex magazine Playboy over a photograph in its latest Dutch edition showing a model wearing the group's official cap—and very little else. The Catholic Flemish Students Association said the model, 21-year-old Conny Verellen, was definitely not a member and the photograph was damaging to its reputation. Playboy's caption, headlined the Girls of Antwerp, claims she is dressed as a Scheide Estuary sea captain.

1985 declared Year of the Forest

ROME (R)—The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) designated 1985 as "International Year of the Forest." The governing council of the United Nations food agency said that forest conservation had become a major environmental problem. Forest resources were being depleted at the rate of 11 million hectares a year as a result of desertification, diseases, fires and pollution, it said.

U.S. senator has left leg amputated

WASHINGTON (R)—U.S. Senator John Stennis, the most senior member of the Senate, Friday had his left leg amputated because of a malignant tumour in the upper thigh, doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Centre said. They said the 83-year-old Mississippi Democrat was expected to resume his duties after a normal period of convalescence. In 1973, Sen. Stennis was shot in the chest during a robbery attempt at his home in Washington but made a full recovery. Sen. Stennis has served in the Senate since 1947. His current six-year term runs until 1989.

Artist sues Michael Jackson

SAN FRANCISCO (R)—An artist who alleged his pictures were used without permission by rock star Michael Jackson sued the singer for \$6.5 million. Ronald McDowell, who specialises in pictures of celebrities and has known the Jackson family since 1972, said in the suit two of his pictures were used on the cover of Jackson's best-selling Thriller album.

Soviet scientist defects to Britain

LONDON (R)—A top Soviet scientist has defected to Britain while on an exchange visit, the Home Office (interior ministry) said Saturday. A spokesman, confirming reports in Saturday's Daily Mail newspaper, said Alexander Karaulov, 34, an expert in molecular analysis, was granted political asylum just over a year ago. The Daily Mail said the defection had been hushed up by an embarrassed scientific establishment. Karaulov was on an exchange arranged by the Royal Society, Britain's equivalent of a national scientific academy.

Chernenko's army service recalled

MOSCOW (AP)—A new documentary film on the border guard detachment in which Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko served in the early 1930s has been screened in the capital, the Official News Agency TASS reported. The 20-minute film, shown Friday to a group of Soviet journalists and film industry workers, features discussing with former comrades-in-arms of the Kremlin chief, who served at a border post in Soviet Kazakhstan for two and a half years during the early 1930s.

State Department spokesman to be replaced

WASHINGTON (USIA)—U.S. State Department Spokesman John Hughes announced that he was resigning as spokesman, effective Jan. 1, and that veteran television correspondent Bernard Kalb of NBC will replace him, starting Dec. 16. He said that President Reagan intends to nominate Mr. Kalb as assistant secretary of state for public affairs, a position he will hold in addition to being spokesman. Mr. Kalb, 62, was a foreign correspondent for the New York Times and CBS and covered the State Department for CBS and, most recently, for NBC.

Sri Lankan jets drive back rebels

COLOMBO (R)—Sri Lankan aircraft opened fire on about 18 boats to drive back an invasion force of separatist guerrillas from southern India, a government minister said Saturday.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathudumali said the boats, carrying about 180 men, fled after coming under fire Friday night while trying to land on Sri Lanka's north west coast from the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

The minister said the boats were spotted about five miles off the north western coastal town of Talaimannar, well inside Sri Lanka's territorial waters.

"They were fired at by our aircraft and they immediately fled back to India," he added.

Mr. Athulathudumali said the Sri Lankan Navy intercepted and opened fire on another boat Saturday morning, instantly killing nine of 10 Tamil guerrillas on board. He said the rebels were trying to land on an island called Delft off Sri Lanka's northern coast.

The 10th man was mortally wounded but said before he died that the group had set sail for Sri Lanka after receiving training in south India, the minister added.

Salvadorean talks produce few results

AYAGUALO, El Salvador (R)—Left-wing rebel leaders and representatives of El Salvador's U.S.-backed government struggled through 12 hours of peace talks that ended here Friday night with few results.

But a joint statement after the meeting, the second between the two sides, said they had agreed to meet again and to ease fighting over the Christmas period.

Roman Catholic bishops, mediating in the talks, had urged the government and the guerrillas to observe a full ceasefire for at least the holiday period. However, the statement said, the two sides had agreed only to allow the free movement of civilians and vehicles between Dec. 22 and Jan. 3.

FAO asks Italy to respect special status

ROME (R)—The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), at odds with Italy over diplomatic privileges, has demanded that the government respect its special status.

Fighting long delays in its imports of office supplies and duty-free goods for its staff and facing a number of lawsuits in Italian courts, the United Nations food agency hinted recently that it might even move out of Rome.

In its latest shot in the dispute, FAO's 49-nation council, its governing body, issued a strongly worded resolution Friday urging Italy to respect the agreement made when the organisation moved in Rome from Washington in 1951.

The council, wounding up a 10-day meeting, also drew attention to the serious food situation in Africa, particularly in Ethiopia and countries south of the Sahara.

FAO Director-General Edouard Sanou said only about half the four million tonnes of Africa's estimated 1985 food aid requirements had so far been pledged.

Earlier this year Italian customs held up duty-free liquor, cigarettes and petrol coupons destined for the staff shop at the FAO complex on one of Rome's seven ancient hills.

The 1951 agreement with Italy allows the FAO to import office items for its work and "reasonable" amounts of duty-free consumer goods for its employees.

The government argues that Italians who work for FAO are not entitled to duty-free privileges.

Italian customs men have also delayed import licences for the large quantities of paper needed by FAO, forcing the agency to make costly additional purchases, diplomatic sources said.

U.S. may confirm UNESCO pullout next week

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. government is expected to announce next week confirmation of its decision to withdraw at the end of this year from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), informed sources said.

The White House is planning a review Monday of UNESCO developments since the U.S. gave a required one-year notice last December of its intention to leave the Paris-based agency, the sources said.

There were reports from Europe that Common Market nations might make a last-minute bid for a one-year delay of the U.S. pullout to coincide with an announced British withdrawal from UNESCO at the end of next year if major reforms are not made.

The U.S. and the United Kingdom supply approximately 30 per cent of the UNESCO's \$375-million two-year budget.

The United States charged that UNESCO programmes have become politicised, hostile toward Western values in favour of statist theories, and that the agency has had irresponsible budgetary and management practices. British

Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe said last week neither Britain nor developing nations were getting fair value from UNESCO and he doubted that sufficient reforms could be made next year.

European reports said the Common Market request was still under study Friday. Diplomatic sources said no message was ready and that not all Common Market nations had agreed on the issue.

West Germany said last week that it intended to work for reform from within the organisation.

Democratic Congressman James H. Scheuer of New York, commenting on the rumoured European action, said "the time has come for action, not words. We are hopeful that events will improve the situation in UNESCO so that the United States could look to returning to the agency. The most significant reform would be a new director-general."

He said the United States should follow through on its plan to withdraw.

Mr. Scheuer arranged early this year with UNESCO Director-General Amadou Mahtar M'Bow for a management study of the organisation by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress. The preliminary GAO report sharply criticised the agency's management, budgetary and personnel procedures. The final report is expected next week.

Mr. M'Bow was to visit Washington on a speaking tour next week, but the trip was cancelled abruptly, sources said.

The French newspaper Le Monde reported Friday that several names were circulating in Paris as possible successors to Mr. M'Bow should he be forced out.

The names mentioned by Le Monde, which did not cite sources, included former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson and former UNESCO Assistant Director-General Federico Mayor of Spain.

Among possible Third World candidates, Le Monde said, were Singapore's ambassador to Washington Tommy Koh, who presided over the International Law of the Sea Conference, and former Colombian President Misael Pastrana Borrero.

Le Monde said any "resurrection operation" at UNESCO "had to begin with the choice of a very high ranking personality who had everyone's confidence" to take over Mr. M'Bow's job.

Mr. M'Bow, 63, a Senegalese educator, has declared that he will not be forced to quit by threats or pressures because he was unanimously elected to head the 161-nation organisation. His term of office ends in 1987 and he has wide support among African and other Third World nations.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Gregory Newell declared last month that those seeking to prevent U.S. withdrawal are taking a "negative" approach which would not achieve needed UNESCO reforms.

Mr. Newell said that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's "decision to withdraw from UNESCO has already moved other member states to more responsible activity in other international forums."

At a UNESCO executive board meeting in October a number of reform measures were adopted but U.S. and British critics have claimed that not enough was done.